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'SCHEDULING REASONS'

**Wang Yi set to skip BRICS meet in Delhi**

NEWS » PAGE 10

AWAITING MONSOON

**IMD unveils weather model for block-level forecasts**

NEWS » PAGE 12

LOCAL POLL DEFEAT

**British PM Starmer says he will not quit**

WORLD » PAGE 14

DATA POINT

***Unemployment among youth above average***

*9.9% of people aged 15 to 29 stay unemployed*

OPINION » PAGE 9

STATEMENT WIN

**Titans rout Sunrisers, climb to the top**

SPORT » PAGE 15

## NEARBY

### Speaker says Raje Gowda will continue as MLA

BENGALURU
Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader said that since the Supreme Court had stayed the recount result of the Sringeri Assembly constituency, Congress leader T.D. Raje Gowda will continue as MLA. » PAGE 6

### Civic bodies brace for monsoon

BENGALURU
The newly formed Bengaluru city corporations have intensified monsoon preparedness measures to prevent flooding and rain-related incidents across the city. » PAGE 2

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 3

# NEET-UG 2026 cancelled after question paper leak

Inquiry after whistle-blower's message led to the decision, says NTA Director-General; re-test to be conducted in 'minimal possible time'; CBI to probe the leak, Maharashtra Police arrest one suspect

**Maitri Porecha**
NEW DELHI

The National Testing Agency (NTA) on Tuesday cancelled the National Entrance-cum-Eligibility Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) conducted on May 3 after evidence emerged that the paper was leaked.

The NTA is expected to announce the schedule for the re-test in seven to 10 days.

The re-test will be conducted in the "minimal possible time", NTA Director-General Abhishek Singh said. No new registration will be required, and no fee will be charged for the re-test; in fact, the NTA has promised to refund fees already paid.

Almost 22 lakh students appeared for this year's NEET-UG, which is the gateway examination for admission to undergraduate medical programmes across the country.

Student's Federation of India members protest against cancellation of NEET-UG 2026 in New Delhi on Tuesday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Four days after the exam was held, a whistleblower's message led investigators to a "guess paper", which included a significant number of questions in the question paper.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case to probe the alleged paper leak, following a reference from the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education, the agency said on Tuesday. The Maharashtra Police said on Tuesday that one suspect has been arrested from Nashik after receiving a request from the Rajasthan Police about an accused involved in the paper leak.

"The exact point where the leak happened will only be disclosed when the CBI inquiry is completed. We have complete footage of up to 1,50,000 CCTVs in strongrooms on the date of exam and post exam," Mr. Singh said. "However, a whistleblower complaint on May 7 led us to inquire into a hand-written note circulating digitally on messaging groups which matched the NEET main exam question paper."

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10
MORE REPORTS » PAGE 11

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay with AIADMK MLAs, C.Ve. Shanmugam, S.P. Velumani and C. Vijayabaskar on Tuesday. ANI

# Rebel AIADMK MLAs to back TVK in House

**The Hindu Bureau**
CHENNAI

On the eve of the floor test in the Tamil Nadu Assembly, Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Tuesday called on rebel AIADMK leaders led by former Ministers S.P. Velumani and C.Ve. Shanmugam hours after they announced support to his Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK).

Earlier, in the Assembly, the newly elected Speaker, J.C.D. Prabhakar, allowed Mr. Velumani to speak immediately after AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami congratulated the Speaker on his election. In the morning, the rebels declared Mr. Velumani the "AIADMK Legislature Party leader". Mr. Palaniswami's supporters, however, said he was the leader of the Legislature Party. The AIADMK led by Mr. Palaniswami would vote against the confidence motion to be moved by the TVK government, senior leader O.S. Manian said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10
EDITORIAL » PAGE 8

## Timer circuit recovered along PM's convoy route

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

After explosive materials were found near Kaggalipura on the outskirts of Bengaluru, close to the route of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's convoy on Sunday, investigators have now reportedly recovered additional materials believed to be capable of triggering an explosion.

According to sources, the police found not only gelatin sticks, but also an electronic circuit and other equipment suspected to be meant for connecting detonators. The officials suspect that the circuit has a provision for fixing a date and time, raising concerns that it could have been intended for a timed explosion.

Sources said that if detonators had been attached and the timer activated, the materials could potentially have caused an explosion.

# Puri hints at fuel price hike amid OMC losses

**Saptaparno Ghosh**
NEW DELHI

Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Tuesday reassured consumers about the adequacy of retail fuels, but indicated that a prolonged West Asia crisis could force the government to pass on the pressure to domestic consumers, as oil-marketing companies (OMCs) continue to bleed losses from holding petrol, diesel, and LPG prices firm.

"How long would oil-marketing companies be able to take it [the losses and under-recoveries], frankly, that is something that worries me," Mr. Puri said at the Confederation of Indian Industries' Annual Business Summit, 2026.

Hardeep Singh Puri

At the present rate, under-recoveries are being incurred, and "one quarter of losses can wipe out net profits made during the last [financial] year", the Union Minister said.

AUSTERITY APPEAL » PAGE 10

## *Holding the reins*

BJP leader Himanta Biswa Sarma takes oath as the Chief Minister of Assam in Guwahati on Tuesday. Mr. Sarma, who led the NDA to a third successive government, became the first non-Congress leader to be Assam CM for two straight terms. RITU RAJ KONWAR (REPORT: PAGE 11)

# Kerala CM suspense continues amid talks

**The Hindu Bureau**
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

In the prolonged bid to clear the cloud of uncertainty over the Congress's Chief Minister nominee for Kerala, high command leaders including Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi opened consultations with top State leaders and former Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) presidents in New Delhi on Tuesday.

While the marathon meeting, which unfolded at Ms. Gandhi's residence, reportedly weighed the chances of senior leaders K.C. Venugopal, V.D. Satheesan, and Ramesh Chennithala, the three names which have been making rounds since the declaration of the results on May 4, K. Muraleedharan, former KPCC chief and MLA-elect, appeared not to rule out the possibility of a dark horse for the post. Faced with a dwindling window of time to make the long-drawn-out decision, the high command, according to a party insider, is reportedly seeking support of top leaders to restore the period of organisational and alliance stability which delivered the party the momentous win.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10
IUML GROWS RESTIVE » PAGE 7

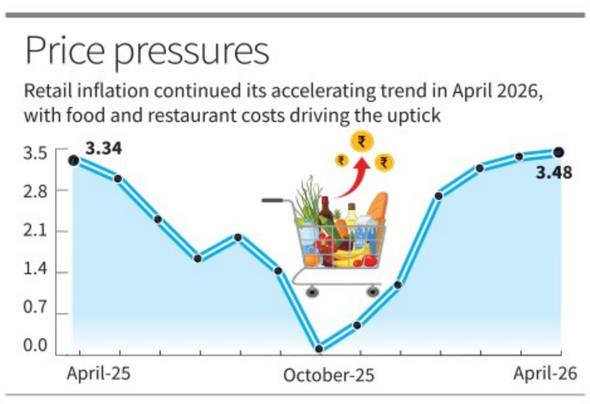
# Pricey food, dining out push retail inflation to a 13-month high of 3.5%

**T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan**
NEW DELHI

Retail inflation quickened to a 13-month high of 3.5% in April 2026, although still coming in lower than what was expected by most economists. The price rise was largely driven by higher food inflation as well as higher prices at restaurants as they passed on higher fuel prices to consumers.

Data on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for April showed that inflation quickened from the 3.4% registered in March, the first month following the start of the war in West Asia.

"The April inflation reading came in softer than expectations," Upasna Bhardwaj, chief economist at Kotak Mahindra Bank, said, a sentiment echoed by Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at the Bank of Baroda as well as Rajni Thakur, chief economist at L&T Finance.




"However, the outlook remains clouded with upside risks amid supply side disruptions from geopolitics and El Nino," Ms. Bhardwaj said.

Inflation in the food and beverages category climbed to 4% in April from 3.7% in March.

Simultaneously, inflation in the restaurant and accommodation services sector quickened sharply to 4.2% in April from 2.9% in the previous month.

**Ease in transport**

Notably, inflation in the transport sector stood at -0.01% in April as compared to 0% in the previous month.

This, according to Ms. Thakur, was more because of the passenger transport services sector rather than the price at which goods were transported.

"While food prices have gone up by around 30 basis points, overall transportation prices have actually eased," Ms. Thakur said. "This is largely on account of easing prices for the services sector, while prices of transport of goods have increased by 7.6% in the month."

# Trekking trails, public movement suspended in wildlife hotspots

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

In the wake of the death of a 10-year-old boy in a leopard attack in the Nagamale forests, near M.M. Hills, in Chamarajanagar district on May 10, Environment Minister Eshwar B. Khandre has directed the temporary suspension of all trekking trails and public movement in areas frequented by wildlife.

Environment Minister Eshwar B. Khandre said there should be strict compliance with the recently released Standard Operating Procedures for trekking trails. FILE PHOTO

The Minister has ordered the closure of all routes where there is movement of leopards, tigers, elephants, bears, and other wild animals, in addition to places where human-wildlife conflicts have occurred.

An official circular has been issued in this regard by the Chief Wildlife Warden.

Mr. Khandre said that there should be strict compliance with the recently released Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for trekking trails in the State. He warned that if adequate preparations are not made to implement the SOPs, activities on such trekking routes will be suspended.

Ten-year-old Harshith, a native of Bengaluru, was killed in the leopard attack on May 10. The leopard is believed to have suddenly attacked the boy and dragged him away.

Mr. Khandre has also directed that pilgrims be allowed to walk to M.M. Hills only during the Shivaratri and Ugadi festivals.

The Minister, who held a meeting with senior officials and forest officers from Chamarajanagar district, instructed that pilgrims should not be allowed to walk the full 14 km to Nagamale. Instead, permission should be limited to only three km, guides should be equipped with walkie-talkies, and necessary safety equipment should be provided.

Mr. Khandre said devotees travelling to Nagamale from the ticket counter area should compulsorily use jeeps. He also directed officials to clear vegetation on both sides of the path so that wild animals can be spotted by pilgrims.

A BG-BGE

# Sooryavanshi has ticked all boxes

**In a wide-ranging conversation, Irfan Pathan breaks down the biggest talking points of IPL 2026: Pant's struggles, Bumrah's form and the rise of young Indian pacers. He also explains the art of swing bowling, the importance of red-ball cricket, and why he believes the 15-year-old is ready to play for India**

INTERVIEW

*Irfan Pathan*

Anirudh Velamuri

Few cricketers understand the art of fast bowling and the tactical side of the game like Irfan Pathan. Once the poster boy of India's pace revolution, he has now transitioned into one of the sport's more respected analysts.

Part of the broadcasting caravan in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL), the 41-year-old doesn't shy away from tough questions: whether it's assessing Rishabh Pant's under-fire captaincy, identifying the next generation of fast-bowling superstars, or explaining what makes Bhuvneshwar Kumar a perennial threat. A conversation with him is an education.

In an online interaction, Irfan delved into the biomechanics of swing bowling, the struggles of elite players like Jasprit Bumrah, the importance of red-ball experience for T20 success, and more. Excerpts:

**What do you make of Sunrisers Hyderabad's inexperienced but spunky pace attack this season?**

When they started, obviously not many people would've thought that they will be in this position in the standings. Even I thought their bowling might be under pressure.

They started with Jaydev Unadkat and Harshal Patel, and it didn't work. They then went with youngsters with their variation and high-paced deliveries which has really clicked for the side. Pacer Sakib (Hussain) and Shivang Kumar with his wrist-spinning ability are two big finds for SRH.

Pat Cummins is a great leader and you could see it in SRH's home match against Punjab Kings, where Sakib bowled a full toss no-ball and Cummins immediately had a word with him. Sakib bowled his nearly full quota of overs, and Cummins used him at the back end of the game as well. Good resource utilisation.

**If you were mentoring SRH's bowling unit, what would you focus on?**

Varun Aaron and the support staff at SRH are doing a wonderful job. If you ask me, I would keep an eye on Sakib's alignment. It is slightly across his body, which might be affecting his control. I would ask him to bowl from the centre of the box rather than going too close towards the stumps to allow him to hit stump lines.

Everyone talks about being close to the stumps, but it's not for all. One size doesn't fit all. There are side-arm bowlers, there are front-arm bowlers. I will not change his action. I will work on that at the end of the season or maybe after the season.

Shivang is another; his lengths need to be monitored. When bowling against overseas batters, he bowls very full, and they are going across him. They don't play the spin and hence get dismissed.

I would encourage him to have that control in his length, especially against the Indian batters who are really good at playing over covers. I am sure Varun must be doing all this already.

**Do you think Rishabh Pant's underwhelming season as captain and batter might impact his spot as India's backup ODI 'keeper too?**

I had high hopes for his captaincy, but the last two seasons haven't delivered. We'll gauge the pressure after the IPL, but with a few games left and three solid innings behind him, he still has a prime opportunity to find form and secure wins

That said, given the expectations Lucknow Super Giants had after picking him in the auction, you want to register performances where you win games singlehandedly for your team. That hasn't been the case for Rishabh and hence he is under pressure slightly.

About a place in the ODI squad... we will only know after the IPL. You never know, he may come back and win two games from here. Or this run could continue and he might not score or win games. Both are possibilities. I don't think selectors will make any decisions now, though.

> Titans are a very interesting and solid team. They rely heavily on their pace department and have a bowler (Rabada) who delivers at speeds of 150kmph... they also have Siraj, who moves the ball both ways, and Prasidh. They are putting grass on the pitch to give some help for the bowlers

**Axar Patel's captaincy with Delhi Capitals has also come under the scanner...**

When performances don't happen, we always look at the captain. Rishabh has faced the same, where we see the team's run and say leadership could have been better. When Chennai Super Kings was struggling, the same happened to Ruturaj Gaikwad. Now CSK has started winning, so people are praising him. This is natural when you don't get results as captain. Axar is in the same boat.

One thing is, when he's leading the side, his bowling takes a backseat. He's someone who can regularly bowl in the PowerPlay. I remember a game against RCB where he came on late. He is sometimes not able to put his bowling forward as he's focused on drawing out results from the others. He shouldn't neglect his own bowling, because he's a wonderful bowler. His batting, too, has dipped for the most part this season. There's too much on his plate and that's probably not working for him.

**What do you think Delhi Capitals' biggest problem has been this season?**

Delhi, last year as well as this year, is a top-four team. They have very experienced and talented players like K.L. Rahul, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Mitchell Starc and others.

Two things have been big factors for Delhi Capitals. One, I think the decision-making could've been better in games. Your decisions at the toss, for instance, need to be sound.

Secondly, Kuldeep Yadav is not in great form. Delhi depends on him, especially on turning tracks. An economy of over 10 is not what a team will expect from its main spinner.

**In a high-scoring slam-bang league where teams are scoring 80-90 runs in the PowerPlay, Gujarat Titans seems to have a different approach. Your thoughts?**

Gujarat is a very interesting and solid team. They're relying heavily on their pace department. They have one guy in Kagiso Rabada who bowls at speeds of 150kmph and then there's Mohammed Siraj, who can actually move the ball both ways. They have Ashok Sharma who has a good high pace, and then there's Prasidh Krishna when he gets a look in too.

They are putting grass on the pitch to give some help for the bowlers. Their pool had good Test bowlers - Rabada, Siraj and Prasidh, who has also become a good Test bowler now. We shouldn't forget Rashid Khan too.

When you have a high-quality bowling unit, you want to make the best of it. For that, you need something to help them. And Gujarat certainly knows they need to put something on the pitch. There is grass there and some cracks too.

They're going to expect that it's not going to be very high-scoring games. And for exactly that reason, they have three guys who are technically really, really good. Jos Buttler comes from England and understands how to handle the swing and seam conditions. They have Shubman Gill and Sai Sudarshan too, both technically very sound.

When you have three top guys who can handle seam movement and pace, their approach is very simple. With the ball, they want something on the pitch. With the bat, they don't wan tto lose wickets early on. Once they don't, things become easier for them.

From a tactical point of view, Gujarat Titans is proceeding according to its strength, which is their bowling. When it comes to making the most of conditions, Gujarat is one of the best.

**Another frontline name who has struggled is Jasprit Bumrah while Bhuvneshwar Kumar has been outstanding for RCB. How do you view these two veterans?**

> There is a lesson for fast bowlers coming through today. Don't leave red ball cricket. Because there you bowl in the morning, afternoon and evening. There are two or three spells you bowl, so your body actually gets ready to bowl those four overs in tough, under-pressure situations.

Bhuvi has an outstanding repetitive action despite the fact that he swings the ball both ways.

People talk about the swing in his wrist. But the wrist starts with the base. Your base is like a building's foundation. If the foundation is strong, then your building will go up and remain strong. Same thing with Bhuvi. Whenever you see his base or front foot, it falls on the same spot when he bowls outswingers or inswingers. It never slips.

Right now, he's fit also. He's taking care of his body. He understands the importance of that. He has not stopped playing red ball cricket either. You then know where to hit the length because there are so many spells to bowl.

That is a lesson for fast bowlers coming through today. Don't leave red ball cricket. Because there you bowl in the morning, afternoon and evening. There are two or three spells you bowl, so your body actually gets ready to bowl those four overs in tough, under-pressure situations.

As for Bumrah, I'm honestly not too worried about his form. The numbers might not be great for him. But even the greats go through a phase he is going through right now. It's affecting the team's results as well, which is understandable.

My solution would be to ask him to rest now. Recover mentally and physically. Maybe it's more mental than physical. Once he and those around him manage his body well, he will be fine.

We've never seen a talent like him. I have played professional cricket for more than 20 years and have seen a lot of cricket. I have been in broadcasting for 10 years now. He is special, and there is no doubt about it.

**Kolkata Knight Riders made a poor start to the season and are now pushing for a playoff spot. What a turnaround!**

If you look at Ajinkya Rahane's captaincy in the last few games, he has done really well. He has actually manoeuvred the bowlers really well. But KKR's problem is the ability, or lack of, to play spin in the middle overs.

In the past, they had Yusuf Pathan and Gautam Gambhir, who played spin really well. Under Gambhir, 160 was very defendable, especially with Sunil Narine and others coming into the game. They had the batters adept at sweeping against the spin.

They had a quality player like Shreyas Iyer, who, when he came in the middle overs, could tackle spinners well. They got the results and won the trophy as well. They need to address this in the big auction when it comes around.

**Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has once again been the talk of town. Do you think he's ready to play for India?**

He is ready because it's not just about the IPL. He has played cricket throughout the year and has made runs in different conditions. He made runs in the U-19 World Cup final. Wherever he gets a chance, he makes runs - in India and abroad. In the IPL, we've seen him take on some high-quality bowlers - Bumrah for example - with no hesitation.

What do you want to see as a selector? What he does in tough conditions, in front of big bowlers... Does he go on the back-foot to them? What does he do in tough conditions? He is ticking every box that a selector might have as it stands.

**Besides Sooryavanshi, which emerging player has impressed you so far?**

There are many, but I want to focus on the pacers. Prince Yadav has made a massive impact. Anshul Kamboj is another who has become a star for CSK. The way his Test debut went, where he struggled to find rhythm, could have dented his confidence. But he has learned from that and moved forward. Ashok Sharma and Gurjapneet Singh have been good, too. This season, good-quality fast bowlers have come up.

**Away from the on-field action, how are you enjoying life as an analyst and commentator?**

I'm absolutely loving it. I am not doing regular commentary now, I am doing something called *Champions wali commentary* for *JioHotstar*. It is especially great for guys like me who love to analyse everything and look into the finer details. We explore tactics, the technical aspects, the biomechanics, and more, and I think this is my zone.

# City's e-accident portal sees 60 users reporting cases per day

An average of 150 to 170 minor accident cases are reported at police stations daily; 40% of them are now being dealt online

**Chetan B.C.**
BENGALURU

In just six months since the Karnataka Home Department launched the e-accident reporting initiative for Bengaluru, a whopping 10,705 people have used the system, with an average of 60 people using it every day.

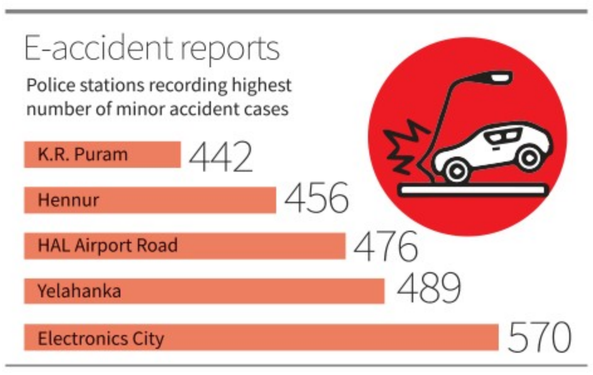
The e-accident system enables commuters to report minor accidents on the spot that do not require filing an FIR but need an acknowledgement from the police to claim insurance.

Under the earlier system, commuters involved in minor accidents had to visit the police station, submit proof such as photographs, complete paperwork, and wait for the police to issue a report, which would then form the basis for insurance companies to accept claims.

An average of 150 to 170 minor accident cases are reported across city police stations every day. Now, around 40% of these cases are being dealt online, which means the system has saved nearly 60 people from visiting a police station daily. This has not only saved citizens' time, but has also eliminated the possibility of police officers demanding bribes to generate an acknowledgement.

Sources in the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) told *The Hindu* that the response has been decent, but the system has even greater potential, as it has eased the burden on both citizens and the police, with officers otherwise spending at least an hour processing minor accident reports.

Data shows that accident cases are most frequently reported on high-density corridors and in areas where tech parks are located. FILE PHOTO




A senior police officer explained that in many minor accident cases, police intervention is necessary because both parties involved in the incident may not reach a consensus. "In such cases, the police have to mediate, resolve the issue, and then generate an acknowledgement – 25% of the total cases fall under this category. Around 35% of the cases are still being handled at the police station level, which can be reduced even further," he said.

**Greater efficiency**

Karthik Reddy, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), told *The Hindu*, "One of the major positives is the time saved for police officers, who can now be deputed for other duties. Reducing paperwork is always a positive because it allows us to have more manpower for law enforcement."

Mr. Reddy also stressed that insurance companies rejecting online acknowledgements could have been a concern, but all companies were onboarded at the start of the initiative.

Charan, a citizen who used the system, said the reporting mechanism is citizen-friendly and has made the insurance claim process hassle-free. "I reported an incident I was involved in near Hebbal, and the process took barely a few days," he said.

**City's hotspots**

According to BTP data, areas on the city's periphery have emerged as hotspots where incidents are reported regularly. Electronics City has recorded the highest number of reports with 570 cases, followed by Yelahanka with 489 cases and HAL Airport Road with 476 cases. Hennur and KR Puram recorded 456 and 442 cases, respectively.

A senior officer explained that the data shows that cases are most frequently reported on high-density corridors and in areas where tech parks are located. "In the jurisdictions of all these police stations, vehicle volume is extremely high, making them more vulnerable to minor accidents. Usually, many techies do not report such incidents and instead bear the expenses themselves because of the complexity involved in accessing insurance claims amid their busy schedules. That has changed now," he explained.

## How to access the system

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Citizens can log in to the ASTraM application and select the e-accident option. They must then select 'Report My Accident', enter the date and time, drop a pin on the map, add a short note describing the issue, upload pictures of the damaged vehicle, and submit the report to receive an official acknowledgement.

The report will contain a unique ID, a passkey, a QR code, and a short link that will enable insurance companies to verify the authenticity of the report.

# Corporations, BWSSB ramp up monsoon preparations

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Officials have been instructed to identify damaged roads, incomplete civic works, and dangerous buildings and report them immediately for further action. FILE PHOTO

With the monsoon approaching, the newly formed Bengaluru city corporations have intensified preparedness measures, focusing on stormwater drain maintenance, road repairs, waste clearance, and identification of dangerous structures to prevent flooding and rain-related incidents across the city.

Pommala Sunil Kumar, Commissioner of the North City Corporation, held a review meeting on Tuesday and directed officials to complete the desilting works of all stormwater drains and canals before the onset of the rains. He also directed officials to clear roadside garbage heaps and prevent waste dumping into major drains.

He asked the officials to direct commercial establishments to ensure proper disposal of waste generated by their businesses. The Commissioner further asked engineers, health officers, and sanitation staff to work in coordination with one other and take personal responsibility in resolving civic issues within their jurisdiction.

Mr. Kumar emphasised the need for maintenance of arterial and sub-arterial roads to prevent water stagnation during heavy rainfall. Officials were instructed to identify damaged roads, incomplete civic works, and dangerous buildings and report them immediately for further action. Notices will also be served to owners of unsafe structures.

Meanwhile, the Bengaluru East City Corporation held a separate review meeting chaired by Commissioner D.S. Ramesh to assess the maintenance of major stormwater drains and infrastructure works undertaken under the Chief Minister's infrastructure development programme grants.

He directed officials to prepare ward-wise action plans for stormwater drain maintenance and mandated desilting of drains once every three months. Around 35 km of concrete drains in the Mahadevapura zone and 45 km in the K.R. Puram zone will undergo maintenance works.

He directed officials to inspect flood-prone areas and take precautionary measures to prevent flooding. Mr. Ramesh also instructed officials to immediately identify and remove dangerous buildings, compound walls, and retaining walls, warning that engineers concerned would be held directly responsible for any accidents caused by unsafe structures.

**15-day deadline**

Meanwhile, the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) on Tuesday convened a monsoon preparedness meeting to discuss the completion of priority works to ensure that there is no inconvenience to the public during the monsoon. BWSSB Chairman Ram Prasath Manohar directed officials to undertake precautionary measures and complete all sewer desilting works within the next 15 days.

"The areas that are prone to rain-related damage must be identified immediately, and the cleaning of manholes along with desilting work must be mandatorily completed within the next 15 days," he instructed.

"Zonal Chief Engineers must personally visit field locations and conduct physical inspections of the ongoing works. It is also mandatory to submit comprehensive reports to the central office regarding the precautionary measures undertaken," he said.

"For this purpose, a dedicated emergency response team must be kept ready under each corporation's jurisdiction. Public grievances must be addressed without delay and resolved promptly," he said.

***Work in progress***

**Repair mode**: Lavelle Road is being dug up for pipeline work undertaken by the Greater Bengaluru Authority. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

# Kumaraswamy announces fresh funds for 1,243 electric vehicle chargers in State

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy; Additional Chief Secretary (Power), Govt. of Kerala, Puneet Kumar; and Gaurav Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary (Energy), at a conference in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy on Tuesday announced the approval of ₹123.26 crore to set up 1,243 electric vehicle chargers in Karnataka.

Speaking at a national conference on 'Enabling Nationwide EV Charging Infrastructure under PM E-DRIVE Scheme' organised in the city, he said, to date, proposals worth ₹503.86 crore have been approved, to facilitate the installation of 4,874 EV chargers in various States through Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) such as HPCL, IOCL, and BPCL.

According to the Minister, to promote EV adoption in the country, the Centre is committed to building a modern and reliable electric vehicle (EV) charging ecosystem to support the country's transition to clean mobility. The government has implemented several key initiatives, including the PLI Auto Scheme with an outlay of ₹25,938 crore, PLI ACC Scheme (₹18,100 crore), Payment Security Mechanism (₹3,435 crore), and the Rare Earth Magnets Scheme (₹7,280 crore), Mr. Kumaraswamy added.

He further said the PM E-DRIVE Scheme offered comprehensive support for electric two-wheelers, three-wheelers, buses, ambulances, and electric trucks.

The scheme has a total financial outlay of ₹10,900 crore, with ₹2,000 crore specifically earmarked for the development of public EV charging infrastructure across the country.

Under this scheme, the government has a mandate to provide incentives for approximately 24.79 lakh electric two-wheelers and 3.16 lakh electric three-wheelers.

Additionally, the scheme is designed to provide substantial financial support amounting to ₹4,391 crore for the deployment of more than 14,028 electric buses.

Speaking at the conference, Hanif Qureshi, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Heavy Industries, emphasised that seamless coordination between the Union and State governments, as well as industry stakeholders, was essential for building an efficient and robust charging ecosystem.

He also urged banks to lend to small enterprises and entrepreneurs. "The banks are not willing to lend to small enterprises; their interest rates are 2-3% higher while lending to smaller entrepreneurs," he pointed out.

# Transport operators in State welcome V2V communication technology

**Darshan Devaiah B.P.**
BENGALURU

As the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways moves towards introducing vehicle-to-vehicle (V2V) communication technology by 2026 to enhance road safety, transport operators in Karnataka have largely welcomed the initiative.

**Seamless integration**

However, transport operators have stressed that financial assistance, training, and seamless integration with existing systems will be crucial for its success.

The Karnataka State Travel Operators' Association (KSTOA) said that the proposed technology has the potential to significantly reduce accidents, particularly on highways and at high-risk junctions. At the same time, it cautioned that the transition may not be easy for operators and drivers without adequate support from the government.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Radhakrishna Holla, president of KSTOA, said, "While V2V technology is a progressive step towards improving road safety, the reality on the ground is that many commercial drivers may find it difficult to adapt to such advanced systems initially. Most of our drivers are used to conventional driving methods, and introducing a technology-driven interface will require extensive training and handholding. Additionally, the cost of installing and maintaining these systems could be a burden for small and medium operators."

"The government must consider subsidies, financial incentives, and phased implementation to ensure that operators are not overwhelmed. Without such support, there is a risk that adoption may remain limited despite the benefits," he added.

**Training needed**

Jayaraj K., a driver from Peenya, said that the initiative is promising but challenging.

"It is definitely a good move if it helps prevent accidents and improve road safety. However, drivers like us need proper training to understand how to use the system effectively. Companies should not pass the cost burden to drivers, and the government must extend support to ensure smooth implementation."

The proposed technology has the potential to significantly reduce accidents, particularly on highways and at high-risk junctions, says KSTOA. FILE PHOTO

All about V2V

- Vehicle-to-vehicle (V2V) enables cars to communicate with each other in real time
- Shares data such as speed, position, and direction
- Improves driver awareness, especially at intersections and blind spots
- Helps prevent collisions and reduce accidents
- Part of Intelligent Transport Systems (V2X) under NFAP-2025

"Already, initiatives such as compulsory Vehicle Location Tracking Devices (VLTDs), emergency panic buttons, and High-Security Registration Plates (HSRPs) have increased costs, especially as we are required to purchase them only from authorised providers," he said.

**The association cautioned that the transition may not be easy for operators and drivers without adequate support from the government**

This makes them expensive, and many of us are already operating at a loss. This new system should not put further financial burden on drivers, " Mr. Jayaraj added.

**50 MHz spectrum**

Meanwhile, a senior official source explained that road safety remains a top priority in this initiative. To reduce fatalities and improve traffic management, the Ministry of Communications has earmarked 50 MHz spectrum in the 5875-5925 MHz band under the National Frequency Allocation Plan (NFAP-2025) for Intelligent Transport Systems (V2X).

"The V2V communication system allows vehicles to share real-time data such as position, speed, and direction with nearby vehicles. This enables enhanced situational awareness beyond human vision and traditional sensors like cameras and radar, particularly at intersections and blind spots," official said.

# Cancer immunotherapy may reshape brain's barrier to metastasis

Scientists have found that drugs called PD-1 inhibitors can make the blood-brain barrier more permeable, a process mediated by the DKK1 protein; this finding explains why some patients develop brain metastases during treatment and suggests new ways to improve drug delivery to the brain

**Shweta Yogi**
PUNE

Drugs that enhance the body's immune response against cancer may also be altering one of its most tightly guarded boundaries: the blood-brain barrier (BBB).

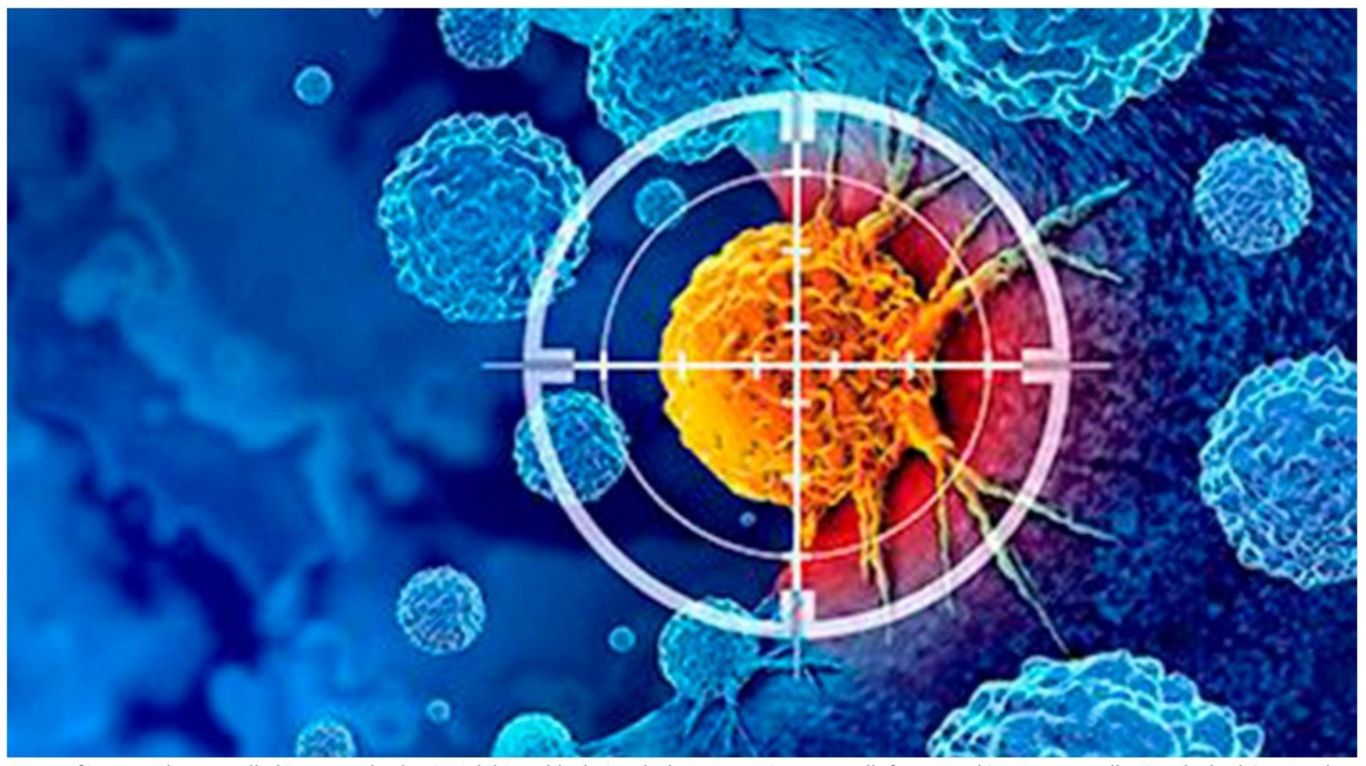
A recent study published by Yuval Shaked at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology and his team, in *Cancer Discovery*, finds that PD-1 inhibitors, a widely used class of cancer immunotherapy, can prompt immune cells to produce a protein that makes the barrier more permeable. This could potentially change how cancer and its treatments affect the brain.

Many conventional anti-cancer drugs cannot cross the BBB, which is a tightly packed lining of cells that controls what passes from the bloodstream into brain tissue, limiting their effectiveness against brain tumours.

So the brain was long thought to be largely insulated from the immune system, but growing evidence shows it can mount meaningful immune responses. In this context, immunotherapy works by activating circulating immune cells that can cross the BBB and target tumour cells within the brain.

A type of immunotherapy called immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs) block signals that prevent immune cells from attacking tumours, allowing the body's natural defences to respond more strongly. While ICIs have been shown to reduce tumour burden within the brain, responses among patients with brain metastases vary and the reasons remain unclear.

"Our work focuses on understanding how cancer treatments affect the body, not just the tumour. In some cases, therapies can trigger responses in normal host cells, such as immune cells, that unintentionally make the environment more favourable for cancer growth," Abhilash Deo, a postdoctoral researcher at the Shaked Lab and the study's lead author, said.



A type of immunotherapy called immune checkpoint inhibitors block signals that prevent immune cells from attacking tumours, allowing the body's natural defences to respond more strongly. Representative illustration. GETTY IMAGES

## Brain environment

To understand how immunotherapy affects the brain immune environment, researchers examined brain tissue from mice with breast tumors treated with anti-PD-1 therapy. They observed a loss of cells that maintain blood vessel stability, weaker barrier proteins, and higher immune cell entry into the brain, suggesting that the BBB was becoming leaky.

Mice treated with anti-PD-1 also showed an increase in brain metastases, likely due to the compromised barrier. Notably, these effects were observed only with anti-PD-1 and not with other ICIs, highlighting a unique host response induced by treatment.

"Our data show that anti-PD-1 therapy can boost anti-tumour immunity in the brain, but in resistant cancers, it may also increase metastasis by altering the host immune environment," Dr. Deo said. "This could help explain why patients with brain metastases show varied responses to immunotherapy."

According to Nirmal Raut, medical oncologist at the Bhaktivedanta Hospital and Research Institute in Thane, treatment responses to ICIs vary widely among patients with brain metastases, ranging from complete remission to rapid disease progression (seen in about 20% of cases after treatment starts).

"We often see discordant responses, where disease outside the brain is controlled, but new brain lesions appear, or vice versa, suggesting that the brain-immune ecosystem is distinct from the rest of the body," he added.

Dr. Raut noted that even when a tumour responds to treatment in organs such as the lung or liver, the BBB can act as a sanctuary where sub-therapeutic drug levels allow cancer cells to survive and evolve.

When untreated animals were injected with plasma from mice treated with anti-PD-1, the researchers observed BBB leaks, suggesting that treatment-induced ICIs were disrupting the barrier. Comparing plasma protein profiles of treated and untreated animals, the team identified several proteins linked to BBB disruption. Among these, removing a protein called DKK1 reduced BBB leakage.

Importantly, these findings were reflected in patient data. MRI scans of patients with lung cancer who received anti-PD-1 therapy showed increased cancer spread within the brain. Higher levels of plasma DKK1 were also linked to a greater occurrence of brain metastases and a shorter period before the disease worsened, particularly among patients who responded poorly to treatment.

"This aligns with the idea that elevated DKK1 may point to a more permissive brain environment for metastasis,"Dr. Raut said. He added that the increased contrast seen on some MRI scans after starting immunotherapy may not always indicate "pseudoprogression" or inflammation but could instead reflect actual BBB leakage caused by activated immune cells.

## Double-edged role

Chakor Vora, a medical oncologist at the Renatus Cancer Centre, Pune, explained that most chemotherapeutic drugs can't cross the BBB, posing a major challenge in treating brain metastases.

Opening of the BBB following anti-PD-1 therapy may therefore improve their delivery to the brain. The researchers found that anti-PD-1 therapy followed by cisplatin chemotherapy improved survival in mice with brain metastases as well as increased drug accumulation in the brain, highlighting a double-edged role.

Dr. Raut said that among patients who don't respond to treatment, opening the BBB using anti-PD-1 therapy could inadvertently allow circulating cancer cells also to enter the brain, potentially increasing the risk of new metastases.

"However, for patients with resistant disease, this same vulnerability could be exploited to improve drug delivery to the brain," he said.

Rahul Solanki, a medical oncologist and a physician of nuclear medicine in Adelaide in Australia, added that once cancer has spread to the brain, the BBB may already be disrupted, and such patients are often excluded from clinical trials. Since medical workers can't measure drug levels in the brain, DKK1 may be a promising biomarker that could help identify patients at higher risk of developing brain metastases during treatment.

"Patients with advanced cancer but without active brain metastases would be better candidates to understand how anti-PD-1 therapy affects treatment response and the risk of metastasis," Dr. Solanki said.

"We typically use a combination of chemotherapy and immunotherapy in high-risk patients with brain metastases, who test positive for immune biomarkers. However, these findings need to be validated in larger studies involving human patients," Dr. Vora stressed.

"If these findings are confirmed in larger human trials, they could change how we sequence treatment," Dr. Raut added.

*(Shweta Yogi is a freelance science writer. shweta2192@gmail.com)*

## THE GIST

Many conventional anti-cancer drugs cannot cross the blood-brain barrier, which is a tightly packed lining of cells that controls what passes from the bloodstream into brain tissue

This limits their effectiveness against brain tumours and the brain was long thought to be largely insulated from the immune system

Immunotherapy works by activating circulating immune cells that can cross the blood-brain barrier and target tumour cells within the brain

## BIG SHOT

**Charred sky:** Mayon volcano spews ash as seen from Daraga, the Philippines, on May 2. The same volcano erupted destructively in 1814, burying the town of Cagsawa and, together with the eruption of Mt. Tambora a year later, contributed to making 1816 the 'Year Without a Summer'. AP

## QUESTION CORNER

# Follow the nose

**Q: Why are some people mosquito magnets?**

**A:** Scientists are now making progress in deciphering the complex chemical cocktail that makes particular people more enticing to these disease-spreading bloodsuckers.

A range of sensory cues can cause mosquitoes to pick one human over another — mainly the smell and heat our bodies give off, and the carbon dioxide we exhale. Female mosquitoes — which are the only ones that bite — detect these signals with finely-tuned receptors, then choose their target accordingly.

The idea that mosquitoes prefer particular blood types "has no scientific basis," Frederic Simard of France's Institute of Research for Development said. Odour, however, matters greatly: "A soup of molecules produced by our microbiota is more ... appealing to mosquitoes".

Humans release between 300 and 1,000 different odorous compounds, research has shown, but scientists are only just beginning to understand which ones attract mosquitoes.

In a recent study, researchers released *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes on 42 women in a lab. The mosquitoes detected 27 odorous compounds. The women the mosquitoes most liked to bite produced a compound made by

A range of sensory cues can cause mosquitoes to pick one human over another — mainly the smell and heat from the body. GETTY IMAGES

the breakdown of a skin oil called sebum.

Drinking beer has also been linked to attracting mosquitoes because it raises body temperature, increases the amount of exhaled $CO_2$ and changes skin odour, according to several studies.

For a 2023 study in the Netherlands, 465 volunteers put their arms in cages filled with female *Anopheles* mosquitoes, which can spread malaria. The volunteers who had drunk beer in the previous 24 hours were 1.35-times more attractive to the mosquitoes.

**For feedback and suggestions**
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# LPG price surge: Auto, taxi operators to seek subsidy for shift to CNG, EV

The Federation of Private Transport Associations president says that the ongoing global conflict has led to a sharp increase in LPG prices and disrupted availability, placing a heavy financial burden on drivers and vehicle owners

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Even at higher prices, consistent supply of fuel remains a challenge in several parts of the country.
FILE PHOTO

The Federation of Private Transport Associations has urged the State and Union government to extend financial assistance to LPG-run auto and taxi operators to facilitate a transition to CNG and electric vehicles (EVs), citing rising fuel costs and supply concerns.

In a press release issued on Tuesday, the president of the federation, S. Nataraj Sharma, said that the ongoing global conflict has led to a sharp increase in LPG prices and disrupted availability, placing a heavy financial burden on drivers and vehicle owners. He noted that even at higher prices, consistent supply remains a challenge in several parts of the country.

**Recent appeals**

The federation said recent appeals by Union Ministers and Prime Minister Narendra Modi encouraging the adoption of alternative fuel options such as EVs, CNG, and public transport have further intensified the pressure on LPG-dependent operators.

"Auto and taxi drivers are willing to shift to cleaner and more economical fuel options like EVs and CNG. However, the high initial cost of conversion is a major hurdle. Without government support, this transition is not financially viable for many," the federation stated.

**Representations**

The association has formally submitted representations to both the State Transport Department and the Union government, seeking subsidies to ease the conversion process. It argued that such a move would not only support the livelihoods of thousands of drivers but also align with broader environmental and energy sustainability goals.

## Fuel supply concerns trigger panic

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Despite the Centre stating that there is no shortage of petrol, diesel, LPG, or crude oil in the country and urging citizens not to panic, a few areas in the State have reported temporary fuel concerns, particularly in Nelamangala. A petrol pump displaying a "No Stock" board triggered panic among residents, leading to confusion and apprehension. Nevertheless, fuel station employees in Bengaluru have confirmed that there is no significant shortage or panic buying occurring in the city. Naveen J, a petrol pump worker on Kasturba Road, said, "As of now, there is no supply issue, and we have not seen any significant panic buying."

# West Asia crisis: Liquor makers seek price hike

**Mini Tejaswi**
BENGALURU

International Spirits & Wines Association of India (ISWAI) has sought urgent intervention from the government of Karnataka to address the escalation in input and packaging costs being faced by the spirits industry due to the ongoing conflict in West Asia, and the resulting global energy and commodity crisis.

The sharp volatility in oil, gas, coal, and petrochemical feedstocks has triggered a structural increase in packaging costs across multiple categories, leaving little scope for manufacturers to absorb these costs through operational efficiencies or alternative sourcing, according to the association.

Sanjit Padhi, CEO, ISWAI said, India's alcoholic beverage industry is witnessing a sharp and sustained increase in input, packaging, freight and energy costs. "We urge States to consider a balanced and pragmatic approach toward price revisions to help maintain business viability, ensure uninterrupted consumer supply, safeguard employment across the value chain, and sustain the industry's significant contribution to State excise revenues, and the broader economy," he urged. Key packaging materials, including glass bottles, closures, labels, PET resin and cartons, have seen significant inflation over the past two years, substantially increasing overall manufacturing costs across the spirits sector, he said.

Glass bottles, the primary packaging format for spirits, have been severely impacted owing to the energy-intensive nature of glass manufacturing. During 2024-25 and continuing into early 2026, elevated soda ash prices coupled with volatility in natural gas and coal have significantly increased furnace operating costs. As a result, glass bottle prices have risen by approximately 11-17%. Similar inflationary pressures are being witnessed in plastic caps and closures, where HDPE and PP resins form a major share of manufacturing costs. During February-March 2026, global polymer markets saw steep increases, with polyethylene prices rising nearly 30% month-on-month, alongside upward revisions in domestic HDPE and PP prices. This has translated into a 15-20% increase in cap and closure costs, according to ISWAI.

John Distilleries chairman Paul John told *The Hindu* that a balanced and pragmatic approach towards price revisions in regulated markets would help support business sustainability.

Abhay Kewadkar, director, Tetrad Global Beverages and former CEO at UB Wines said the current scenario has triggered market destabilisation under which reputable brands were forced to exit businesses, thus creating space for illicit activities.

Aditya Khoday, director, The House of Khoday, said the volatility in fuel prices has also resulted in a steep increase in transportation and logistics costs. He said that the widening gap between input costs and realisable prices is steadily eroding margins and pushing the industry towards an unsustainable position.

# Hydro ganja worth ₹1.28 crore seized, 5 arrested

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru City Police have arrested five persons, including three individuals from other States and two residents, for allegedly selling banned narcotic substances in the limits of Ashok Nagar and Malleswaram police stations.

Police seized 3 kg and 686 gm of hydro ganja from the accused.

The value of the seized contraband is estimated at ₹1.28 crore, while its market value is said to be around ₹2.56 crore.

**Cases registered**

The police had received information on different occasions that banned hydro ganja was being illegally sold in Ashok Nagar and Malleswaram. Cases were registered under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS Act), following which raids were conducted at various locations. During the operations, five accused were taken into custody.

**The police seized 3 kg and 686 gm of hydro ganja from the accused**

The police claimed the accused confessed during interrogation that they had procured the banned narcotic substance at lower prices from suppliers from other States and local contacts, to earn huge profits by selling it to the public and college students.

The police also stated that efforts are under way to trace other persons involved in supplying the hydro ganja to the accused persons.

The five accused were produced before the court on different dates, and the court remanded all of them in judicial custody.

# Elderly auto driver killed after e-scooter explosion sparks fire

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

A 65-year-old auto driver died after an electric two-wheeler allegedly exploded while charging inside his residence at Murphy Town under Halasuru Police Station limits in the early hours of Tuesday.

The deceased has been identified as Lourdes Nadan alias Luthnathan.

According to the complaint filed by his son, Frank Anthony L., 36, the family had plugged in their electric two-wheeler for charging around 11 p.m. on Monday before going to sleep. At around 3 a.m. on Tuesday, the vehicle allegedly exploded, triggering a fire inside the compact two-storeyed rented house.

The police said Lourdes Nadan was sleeping alone in the living room on the ground floor at the time of the incident, while his son, an app-based cab driver, and daughter-in-law were asleep in a terrace-attached room on the upper floor.

The electric vehicle had reportedly been parked barely two to three feet away from the hall where the victim was sleeping. Hearing a loud explosion, Frank Anthony rushed downstairs and found his father engulfed in flames.

With the help of their neighbours, the victim was rescued and rushed to Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital. Doctors declared him dead on arrival.

# Cong. MLCs meet Surjewala in Delhi

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Amid speculation over a possible leadership change in the Congress government in Karnataka, ruling party MLCs on Tuesday met Congress general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala in New Delhi and sought an early clarification on the issue of leadership.

The MLCs, including Madhu Madegowda, T.D. Srinivas, Chandrashekhar Patil, Basanagouda Badarli and Puttanna, met Mr. Surjewala and appealed to him to convey their concerns to the party high command.

They are also believed to have demanded that at least five Congress members from the Legislative Council be inducted into the State Cabinet if a reshuffle takes place.

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# Text&Context

THE HINDU

## NEWS IN NUMBERS

### Total amount of ethane imported by China in 2026

**3.462** million tons. This is more than half the volume for all of 2025, with the U.S. being its sole supplier, Kpler data showed. China boosted U.S. ethane imports to all-time highs in April to capitalise on strong petrochemical margins as the supply of other feedstocks from West Asia was disrupted by the Iran war. REUTERS

### Percentage of retail inflation in India in the month of April

**3.48** in per cent. Retail inflation rose marginally to 3.48 per cent in April compared to 3.40% in the preceding month, mainly due to an uptick in food prices. Food inflation, as per the Consumer Price Index (CPI), was 4.2% last month compared to 3.87% in March. The corresponding inflation rates for rural and urban were 3.74% and 3.16%. PTI

### Profit recorded by Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in 2025-26

**1.98** in ₹ lakh crore. Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have recorded an all-time high net profit of ₹1.98 lakh crore in 2025-26 fiscal year, marking the fourth straight year of profitability, the Finance Ministry said on Tuesday. The aggregate business of PSBs increased to ₹283.3 lakh crore as of March 31, 2026, a growth of 12.8 per cent over the previous year. PTI

### Area of degraded land to be rehabilitated by Indonesia

**12** in million hectares. Indonesia is committed to rehabilitate 12 million hectares (29.65 million acres) of degraded land and potentially integrate new tree-planting efforts with its plan to develop carbon offset projects, its Forestry Minister said in a statement on Tuesday. Minister Raja Juli Antoni made the comments at the United Nations Forum on Forests in New York. REUTERS

### Persons killed in Lebanon due to Israeli strikes since ceasefire

**380** Israeli strikes on Lebanon have killed 380 people since a ceasefire in the Israel-Hezbollah war began on April 17, Lebanon's Health Ministry told AFP on Tuesday. A Ministry official said that "380 people, including 22 children and 39 women, have been killed in strikes on Lebanon since the ceasefire". AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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# Addressing India's electrical fire risks

A pre-dawn fire in Vivek Vihar that killed nine, record electricity demand of 256 GW, and numerous air-conditioners switching on simultaneously; highlight a surge in power consumption and raise concerns over the growing risk of electrical fires in India.

EXPLAINER

Kalyan Mangalapalli

**The story so far:**

Just after 3.48 a.m. on May 3, 2026, fire tore through a four-storey building in Vivek Vihar, East Delhi, killing nine. The suspected origin is an air-conditioner blast or short circuit. Delhi Fire Service data attributes over 80 per cent of fires in the capital to electrical faults; Mumbai Fire Brigade, analysing 26,855 incidents over five years, attributes nearly three in four to the same cause. These are reported attributions, not forensic findings; the gap matters. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) recorded 7,566 fire accidents and 7,435 deaths in 2022, with electrical short circuit consistently among the largest single causes, but most incidents land in a catch-all 'other' category, meaning electrical causes are likely under-counted.

India's electricity demand hit 256.11 GW on April 25, 2026, against air temperatures of 47 degrees, roughly double the early-2010s peak. Cooling already pulls about 50 GW at peak; that could rise to 180 GW by 2035. Indians bought 15.4 million ACs in 2025; the IEA expects the installed base to climb from 93 million units in 2024 to 240 million by 2030. Each new unit is a non-linear load plugged into wiring sized, in older buildings, for fans and bulbs.

**Tragic aftermath:** A four-storey building in Vivek Vihar, where at least nine people died and two others were injured in a fire that broke out on May 3, 2026. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

### THE GIST

- Delhi Fire Service data attributes over 80 per cent of fires in the capital to electrical faults, with rapid load growth, poor installation quality, and weak maintenance increasing fire risks.
- Air-conditioners are among the heaviest electrical loads in homes, with start-up currents several times higher than running current, and are often wired into circuits shared with other heavy appliances.
- ISI-marked electrical equipment, dedicated AC circuits, periodic thermography scans, annual servicing, and immediate attention to flickering or burning smells can help prevent electrical fires.

### The vulnerablilty of older houses to electrical fires

The Forum for European Electrical Domestic Safety (FEEDS) estimates 132 million obsolete electrical installations across the EU, roughly half the residential stock: more than 30 years old and never renovated. The structural problem is the same in any electrifying economy: renovation rates lag behind the build rates of decades past.

India appears to lie in the same category of electrical-fire vulnerability as Europe, but its main issue lies less in the age of its housing stock and more in the combination of rapid load growth, low-voltage installation quality, and weak maintenance. A fan-and-bulb circuit installed in 1985 is now expected to carry a 1.5-tonne inverter AC, an induction hob, a geyser, an EV charger and a string of phone chargers. None of these existed when the wires were sized.

### The risks posed by air-conditioners

Air-conditioners concentrate every risk mentioned above. They are the largest non-linear load most homes will ever own; start-up current can be six to eight times running current; and they are wired into circuits often shared with other heavy appliances.

There is a second, slower problem: harmonics. Every inverter-driven AC, like every UPS, LED driver, MRI and EV charger, draws current in jagged pulses that inject distortion at multiples of 50 Hz. In three-phase buildings, certain harmonic orders add up in the neutral conductor, a wire never sized to be load-bearing, and quietly heat it. Supporting studies found that high inverter density on Delhi and West Bengal low-voltage networks raised voltage and current harmonic distortion beyond IEEE 519-2014 limits, while a hospital study in Dharwad recorded unbalanced load, non-zero neutral current, and THD above IEEE-519 guidance. Add a loose joint and you have an ignition source against insulation.

### The causes of an electrical fire

Electrical fire is a category, not a cause. A peer-reviewed 2025 review in *Fire* identifies six recurring failure modes: short circuits, overloads, loose or oxidised connections, series and parallel arc faults, ground faults, and equipment ageing. Behind each lies a small set of root causes: counterfeit wire and breakers, undersized circuits for new loads, missed maintenance, poor switchboard terminations, and harmonic distortion that overheats neutrals in three-phase building connections.

A loose connection at a socket or breaker terminal is the most common ignition point in U.S. residential electrical fires; it produces a hot spot that burns insulation over months before anything visible happens. India's SUM Hospital (2016) and AMRI Hospital (2011) fires, which together killed 117, both began with electrical short circuits.

### Prevention and periodic inspections

Japan made periodic inspection of every domestic electrical installation, every four years, mandatory in the early 1960s; South Korea followed in the 1970s. Recorded fire counts in both countries fell by close to 90 per cent. The EU 2024 Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, in Recital 36, recognises heat pumps, solar photovoltaics, batteries and EV chargers as fire-safety risks.

### Lessons for Indian electrical safety standards

The Bureau of Indian Standards publishes SP 30:2023 (National Electrical Code of India 2023), NBC 2016 Part 4 covers fire and life safety, and Indian electrical installations often require contractor completion and inspectorate approval before energisation; in most EU countries, the utilities typically require an inspection report even before meter connection.

Arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCI) or arc-fault detection devices are designed to detect hazardous electrical arcs and prevent residential fires by interrupting power before the arcing circuit ignites. Though mandatory in U.S. dwellings since 1999, these devices are essentially absent from Indian residences.

While some specialised industrial or high-end retail channels may offer AFCI-related devices, they are not generally mandated for Indian residences by local building or electrical codes in the same prescriptive manner as in North America. FEEDS notes lower-income tenants are systematically the most exposed, because rented apartment stock is more likely to be older.

### Shortage of forensic analysis

The Fire and Security Association of India highlighting a 96% shortage of fire infrastructure points to a systemic capacity problem. Overall, India faces a severe shortage of fire-forensic engineers and a heavy reliance on provisional explanations rather than detailed root-cause analysis, even in major incidents.

### Safeguards against electrical fires

In the U.S., the plug-in Ting sensor from Whisker Labs samples voltage 30 million times a second and alerts the homeowner when it detects micro-arcing, that can lead to electrical fires. It is in over a million U.S. homes, distributed free to policyholders by insurers including State Farm and Nationwide, who underwrite its claim of preventing four in five qualifying electrical fires.

The technology is not the bottleneck; the Indian retail and insurance ecosystem is. There is no consumer-priced equivalent on sale in India, and no certification regime telling a buyer in Chennai which IoT energy meter on Amazon India measures harmonics.

An educated consumer's honest options today: insist on ISI-marked wiring, breakers and stabilisers; never run an AC on a shared, undersized circuit; have a thermography scan of the main panel every two to three years; service ACs annually; and treat any flicker or burning smell as a service call.

### Potential measures to address fire safety gaps

First, tie IEEE 519-style harmonic compliance and basic power-quality monitoring to building approvals for hospitals, commercial premises, data centres and EV-charging hubs.

Second, introduce a periodic inspection regime for existing installations, on the Japan/Korea/EU model, triggered by major load additions: rooftop solar, EV chargers, battery storage.

Third, build a published forensic chain after major electrical fires, on the MAIB/NTSB model. Fourth, fix the data: a harmonised dataset across DFS, MFB, NCRB and BIS.

As tens of millions of new ACs switch on to combat 47-degree summers, the gap shall be tested again. The hum is already there. The only choice is whether India listens to it before, or after, the spark.

*(Kalyan Mangalapalli is an Energy and Emerging Technologies expert.)*

# Three arrested for selling deer antlers worth ₹10 lakh

**A prime suspect in the case is absconding**

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Central Crime Branch and the Chikkabanavara police arrested three persons for allegedly attempting to sell prohibited deer antlers near a college in Chikkabanavara.

The accused have been identified as Murali, 29, Manjunath, 39, and Kariyappa, 53.

According to the police, on May 9, officers of the Organised Crime Wing (East) of the CCB received information that unidentified persons were trying to sell the antlers of a wild animal near a college in Chikkabanavara. After verifying the information, officials registered a case at the Chikkabanavara Police Station under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 (2022 Amendment).

Subsequently, a joint team led by Police Inspector Suresh P. of the CCB, along with personnel from Chikkabanavara Police Station, conducted a raid at the spot. During the operation, the three accused were apprehended, and one deer antler was seized.

The police said that during interrogation, the accused confessed that they intended to sell the antler for a large profit. The seized antler is estimated to be worth around ₹10 lakh.

The accused were produced before a court on May 10. One of the accused was remanded in seven days of police custody, while the remaining two were sent to judicial custody.

The police said a prime suspect in the case is still absconding and further investigation is under way.

# Stampede case: HC permits DNA officials to travel abroad

The officials from DNA Entertainment Networks Pvt. Ltd. were arraigned as accused in the criminal cases related to the stampede that occurred outside M. Chinnaswamy stadium in 2025

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Eleven persons were killed in the stampede that occurred during the celebrations organised at the stadium following RCB's victory in the IPL 2025 cricket tournament. FILE PHOTO

The High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday permitted two executives of the event management company DNA Entertainment Networks Pvt. Ltd., who were arraigned as accused in the criminal cases related to the stampede that occurred outside M. Chinnaswamy stadium on June 4, 2025, to travel to Rio de Janeiro in Brazil from June 1 to June 10 by relaxing their bail conditions.

A Vacation Bench of Justice S.R. Krishna Kumar passed the interim order on applications filed by Sunil Matthew, a director, and Kiran Kumar S., a senior event manager of DNA, seeking permission for the release of their passports from the trial court and to travel to Brazil to attend an international event connected with the business activities of their company.

The court, on April 30, had ordered the release of their passports to enable them to make travel arrangements, while asking them not to leave the country till May 12, after the prosecution pointed out that the applications lacked travel details.

**'Return by June 12'**

On perusing their travel details, the court permitted them to travel to the places indicated in their applications, while making it clear that they should return to Bengaluru by June 12, the next date of hearing on the petitions in which they have challenged the legality of the criminal cases registered against them.

The criminal cases were registered against them and others in connection with the deaths of 11 persons in a stampede that occurred during victory celebrations organised at the stadium following the RCB team's victory in the IPL 2025 cricket tournament.

Mr. Matthew and Mr. Kumar were among the accused arrested after the stampede, but the High Court on June 12 ordered their release on bail, declaring their arrest by the police "illegal". The court had directed them to deposit their passports with the trial court as a condition for their release on bail.

# 3 held in burglary case

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The K.R. Puram police arrested three individuals in connection with a burglary case, recovering stolen gold and silver items as well as cash worth approximately ₹40 lakh.

According to the police, a resident of Anandapura filed a complaint at the K.R. Puram Police Station on February 20 stating that he had travelled to Pune on February 18 for a relative's wedding, while his wife and children remained at home.

The police said that on February 20, the complainant's wife and children had gone to a nearby shop at T.C. Palya. Upon returning home later in the day, they found the front door open and discovered that gold ornaments, silver articles, and cash totalling ₹4.9 lakh had been stolen.

Based on the complaint, the police registered a burglary case and launched an investigation. During the probe, officers gathered technical and local intelligence and detained two suspects from Rajasthan on March 3. During interrogation, the accused allegedly confessed to committing the theft along with another associate. The two accused were produced before the court on March 6, following which they were taken into 25 days of police custody.

Further investigation revealed that the stolen gold and silver articles had been kept at another associate's residence in Bellandur.

Between March 15 and April 11, the police recovered 196 gm of gold ornaments, 1 kg and 756 gm of silver articles, and ₹22,000 in cash from the accused and their associates. The recovered property is estimated to be worth around ₹40 lakh.

The police identified the prime accused as Uttam Singh, who allegedly conducted reconnaissance to identify houses and later roped in associates from Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan to execute the thefts.

Uttam Singh is currently absconding and efforts are under way to trace and arrest him.

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ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಅಭಿಯಾನ
**ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಯೋಜನಾ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ**
# 308, ಮೂರನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಡಳಿತ ಭವನ, ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ. ರಾಚಯ್ಯ ಜೋಡಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ 571313
Phone: 08226-355162 E-mail : dpdochamarajanagar@gmail.com

DHS/CPHC-UHC/CHN/01/2026-27 Dated : 07-05-2026

**E-TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT**
**(Only through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)**

Tenders have been invited from eligible organizations on the Karnataka Public Procurment Portal for the supply of Equipment required for various health Institution in Chamarajanagar District for the year 2026-2027 under the National Health Mission 15th Finance Commission tender form, EMD Fees and more information About the tender can be viewed on the website **www.https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

**TENDER NUMBER : DHFWS/2006-27/IND2463**

| Name of the Tender | To Purchase of equipment required for various health institution in Chamarajanagar under 15th Finance Commission |
|---|---|
| Date and Time for commencement of downloading of bidding document | Date 07-05-2026 Time 10.30 am |
| Pre-Bid Meeting and sample verification | Date 19-05-2026 Time 11.00 am |
| Last Date and Time for bid submission / uploading of bid in E-Procurement platform | Date 08-06-2026 Time 4.00 pm |
| Date & Time for opening of Technical bids | Date 09-06-2026 Time 4.10 pm |
| Date & Time for opening of Financial bids | Date 12-06-2026 Time 4.00 pm |
| Place of opening of bids and address for Communication | District Health & Family Welfare Office Chamarajanagar |

**Sd/- Member Secretary,**
**District Health & Family Welfare Society,**
**Chamarajanagar District, Chamarajanagar.**

No. : DIPR:CHANAGAR:97:2026-27

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**NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY**
**E-TENDER NOTICE**
**No. 12 to 16-26-27**
No. 580-W/TTR/M Line, L Line/BKN/2025 Dated : 08.05.2026
Divl. Rly. Manager, N.W.Rly. Bikaner for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tender for the following works **up to 15.00 hours on 27.05.2026** as below:- **Tender No. :** 12 **Name of Work with its Location :** Balance work for Rewari - Sadulpur & Hisar Sadulpur (Loop lines) - Renewal of SEJ- 66 Sets. **Approx. Cost of Work :** Rs. 1903096.42 **Earnest Money : Rs.** 38100.00 **Tender No. :** 13 **Name of Work with its Location :** Miscellaneous P-Way works under the Jurisdiction. of ADEN-Suratgarh for 24 Months. **Approx. Cost of Work :** Rs. 30011357.37 **Earnest Money : Rs.** 600200.00 **Tender No. :** 14 **Name of Work with its Location :** Construction of 16-Nos Unit qtrs for Engg. S&T and Operating staffs at GAJNER & NAL Station Each (Total 16-Nos Units) under jurisdication of ADEN-Line-Bikaner. **Approx. Cost of Work :** Rs. 71711638.48 **Earnest Money : Rs.** 1434200.00 **Tender No. :** 15 **Name of Work with its Location :** Construction of 12-Units Type-II quarters for Engg, S&T and Operating staffs at Lunkaransar and 08 units Type-II quarters in lieu of old dilapidated Type-I qtrs at Gadwala Station under jurisdication of ADEN-Line-Bikaner. **Approx. Cost of Work :** Rs. 91681912.01 **Earnest Money : Rs.** 1833600.00 **Tender No. :** 16 **Name of Work with its Location :** Kolayat-Phalodi-TTR (FS+TWS+WCMSC) -1 in 12 (7-Nos) & 1 in 8.5 (23-Nos) (Loop Lines) in the jursdication of ADEN/Line/BKN. **Approx. Cost of Work :** Rs. 12612853.28 **Earnest Money : Rs.** 252300.00 **Note:-** Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website **www.ireps.gov.in** **686-CQ/26**
Follow us on : /NWRailways NWRailways_

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**
My client, **Mr.H.V.VIKRAM,** S/o Mr. Vasudevamurthy .H.T, aged about 35 years, R/at- No.194, 10th A Cross, SRR Layout, Kavalahosahalli Village, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District-562106, is proposes to purchase the schedule property from, Smt.Uma Devi D/o Late Gowramma W/o Paramesh.N, Aged about 55 years, R/at-No.A-20, 3rd Cross, 15th Main Road, Srinivasanagar, SBM Colony, Bengaluru District, any person/s having any manner of claims/ objections for the proposed purchase may lodge their claims/ objections with the undersigned, with documentary evidence **within 10 days** from the date of this publication. Any claims/ objections received thereafter will not be binding on my client and my client will proceed to purchase the schedule property as if there are no claims/objections.
**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**
All that piece and parcel of Residential Immovable Property bearing **Site No.12, Old Anekal Municipal Assessment No.46/400A, New TMC PID Khatha No.26596862, Assessment No.1434206609, Property No.46/400A, Measuring an extent of East-West 4.572 mtrs and North-South 12.192 Mtrs, totally 55.741 Sq.mtrs,** situated at Ward No.8, Anekal Town, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, and common bounded by: **East by:** Remaining Portion in same Site No. belongs to Pushpalatha, **West by:** Site No.11, **North by:** Municipal Road, **South by:** ASB High School Ground
**Mr. L.N. RAJU,** Advocate
No.07, Uma Complex, Near MRF Tyres Showroom, Mirza Road, Bayanna Layout, Anekal Town, Bengaluru District-562106. Mob:9738957178.

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युवा, रोजगार एवं कौशल विकास विभाग
बिहार कौशल विकास मिशन
बिहार, पटना
बिहार सरकार
**सूचना**
बिहार कौशल विकास मिशन द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा "RFP for empanelment of Training Partner to implement employment linked Domain Skill Development Program under Labour Resource Department, Govt. of Bihar under the overall framework of Bihar Skill Development Mission (BSDM),RFP No.–BSDM/Training Partner/RFP-120/2025 dated 04.07.2025" (PR. No.-007732(LRD) 2025–26) को अपरिहार्य कारणों से रद्द किया जाता है।
PR. No. 002925 (Youth & Skill) 2026-27
मिशन निदेशक,
बिहार कौशल विकास मिशन
पटना, बिहार
नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

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**BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED**
Office of the Deputy General Manager-3, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052. Email: bswmlee4@gmail.com
No. DGM-3/BSWML/TEND/02/26-27 Date: 12.05.2026
**INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT) (Through GOK KPPP Only)**
**The Deputy General Manager-3, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru** invites tender from eligible tenderers for the Project management consultancy services for the work mentioned in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for services through KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka **(viz. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified is as per standard bid document. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

| Sl No. | Name of the work | Construction Cost (Rs. In Lakhs) | Duration (Including Monsoon) | EMD Amount in Rs. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Appointment of PMC for the work of Odour Abatement and Peripheral Infrastructure works around Chikkanagamanagala Processing Plant in Anekal Constituency, including enzyme spraying and allied improvement works. | 4002.01 | 12 Months | 80,000/- |
| 2 | Appointment of PMC for the work of Bio -enzyme based odour suppression and site improvement works in and around 5 processing plants in Yeshwanthapura constituency including allied infrastructure and operational support works. | 7205.00 | 12 Months | 1,44,100/- |
| 3 | Appointment of PMC for the work of Bio-Enzyme based Odour Suppression and Basic infrastructure development works in and around MSGP processing plants in Doddaballapura Constituency. | 823.74 | 11 Months | 16,475/- |
| 4 | Appointment of PMC for the work of Inert landfill area protection and nuisance reduction works in and around Hullahalli inert landfill site in Bengaluru South Constituency, including enzyme spraying, safety measures and allied basic infrastructure works | 1600.97 | 9 Months | 32,000/- |
| 5 | Appointment of PMC for the work of Mitigation of fly infestation, protection of public health and development of basic infrastructure in nearby villages around five processing plants in Yeshwanthapura assembly constituency | 5604.00 | 11 Months | 1,12,000/- |

**Calendar of Events: 1.** Pre bid Meeting: **21.05.2026 at 15.00 Hrs at the office of CE & CGM (Tech)-2,** BSWML, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru. **2.** Last date for submission of the bids: **29.05.2026 upto 16.00 Hrs. 3.** Date of opening of Technical bid on: **30.05.2026 at 16.30 Hrs. 4.** Date of opening of Financial bids to be notified to technically qualified bidders.
**Sd/- Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML, Bengaluru**
DIPR/CP/AAA/627/2026-27

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FORM NO. 3
[See Regulation - 15 (1) (a) / 15(3)]
**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BANGALORE (DRT II)**
**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**
**Ministry of Finance Department of Financial Services Debt.**
**Recovery Tribunal - II Karnataka (Bengaluru)**
**4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road,**
**Bangalore, Pincode - 560 001.**
**Case No. OA / 1760 / 2018**
**Summons under Sub-Section (4) of Section 19 of the Act, Read with Sub-Rule (2A) of Rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993.**
**United Bank of India**
**- V/s. -**
**Mrs. Shilpa Agarwal and Others**
**D-3 Sri. Mohit Agarwal S/o. Late Ishwan Das Agarwal**
**Major, # 50/51, RHB Colony,**
**2nd Main, Mahadevapura, Bengaluru - 560048.**

**SUMMONS**

WHEREAS, OA No. 1760/2018 was listed before Hon'ble Registrar on **05-05-2026.**

WHEREAS, this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue Summons / Notice on the said Application under Section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for Recovery of Debts of **Rs. 74,55,672/- (Rupees Seventy Four Lakhs Fifty Five Thousand and Six Hundred and Seventy Two only)** application along with copies of documents etc. annexed).

In accordance with Sub-Section (4) of Section 19 of Summons of the Act, you the defendants are directed as under : -

(i) To show cause within Thirty Days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted.
(ii) To disclose particulars of Properties or Assets other than Properties and Assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the Original Application ;
(iii) You are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under Serial Number 3A of the Original Application pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachments of properties.
(iv) You Shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and or other assets and properties specified or disposed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal.
(v) You shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realized by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security interest over such assets.
(vi) You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar **on 19.06.2026 at 10.30 a.m.** failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this **Date : 06-05-2026**
**Signature of the Officer**
**Authorized to issue Summons**
Seal

**Submitted by : Sheela Deepak,** Advocate
No. 116/6, 3rd Floor, 11th Cross, Malleshwaram,
Bangalore - 560003. Ph.: 9353012272
Email : Saishldpk.adv@gmail.com

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**IN THE COURT OF XXV ADDL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, AT BANGALORE**
**O.S. No.3917/2025 (CCH-23)**
**Smt. CHAYA.G.M,** Aged about 53 years, W/o. Sri. Mahveer Jain.H.B, R/at. No.55/1, 15th Cross Road, 8th Main Road, Subbaraju Layout, Lakkasandra, Bangalore South, Adugodi, Bangalore-560030. ....**PLAINTIFF**
**-V/s-**
**SRI. DHARMENDRA.N** & OTHERS .... **DEFENDANTS**
**SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT No.1, 2 AND 4**
**1. Sri. N.DHARMENDRA, Aged** about 55 years, S/o. Late. K.Nemiraj Jain, R/at. No.17, Near MICO, Adugodi, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore-560030.
**2. Smt. K.PADMAVATI,** Aged about 57 years, W/o. Sri. S.A.Chandra Keerthi, R/at. No.1008/26, 26th Main, (Old 24th Main), 4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560041.
**4. Sri. S.A. CHANDRA KEERTHY,** Aged about 62 years, S/o. Late. S.N. Ananthaiah, R/at. No.1008/26, 26th Main, (Old 24th Main), 4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore-560041.
The plaintiff above named has filed suit against you for the relief of partition and separate possession in the schedule property.
You are hereby directed to be present personally or through a duly instructed counsel before the Hon'ble Forum on **10-07-2026** at 11:00 A.M to answer the above complaint.
**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**
**ITEM No.1:** All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing No.17, having BBMP PID No.63- 30-17, measuring East-West 15.6 Ft. and North-South 77.8 Ft. along with constructed building thereon, situated at Bannerghatta Road, near MICO, Bangalore-560030 and bounded on: East by: Property bearing site No.17/1, West by: Bannerghatta Road, North by: Bosch Road, South by : Passage for property No.17/1.
**ITEM No.2:** All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing No.17/1, having PID No.63-30- 17/1, measuring East-West (109.6+76)/2 Ft. and North-South (88.5 +99)/2 Ft., situated at near MICO, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore-560030 and bounded on: East by: Private Property, West by : Property No.17, North by: Bosch Road, South by: Property No.21.
**ITEM No.3:** All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property bearing No.1008-26, Property E-PID No.2161616420, New BBMP Ward No.168 - Pattabiramanagara, measuring East-West 82 Ft. and North-South 40 Ft., total measuring 3280 Sq.Ft., situated at 4th T Block, 24th Main Road, Jayanagar, Bangalore and bounded on: East by: Road, West by: SSMRV College, North by: Site No.1007, South by: Site No.1009.
If you fail to be personally present or through a counsel on the said day, the matter will be Heard in your absence placing you ex-parte and the same would be decided in your absence
Given under my hand and the seal of this court on 02-05-2026.
By order of the court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court at Bangalore.
**NAVEEN .N,** Advocate
No.418/04, 4th Cross, 6th Main, Wilson Garden, Bangalore-560027.

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**WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY**
**E Tender Notice, Civil Engineering**
**No- W. 623/15, Date - 08.05.2026**
Sr. Divisional Engineer (Coordination), West Central Railway, Kota for and on behalf of President of Union of india invites following open E-tenders. **Tender No. :** 82/2026 PSSA, **Description of work :** Appointment of Project Supervision Services Agency (PSSA) for various infrastructural Work in Kota division of West Central Railway for 24 months. (Pre Bid conference schedule to be held on 20 May 2026 at 11:00 hrs at DRM Office, WCR, Kota Division), **Approx Cost :** 117211048.45, **Earnest Money :** 2344300.00, **Last Date, Time of submission tender :** 15.30 Hrs On date 26.06.2026, Complete details are available in the E-tender notice uploaded on the railway web site www.ireps.gov.in and also placed on the notice board of the Sr. Divisional Engineer (Coordination), DRM Office, West Central Railway Kota's office.
**(Sd)**
**Sr. Divisional Engineer (Coordination), West Central Railway, Kota**
स्वच्छ भारत अभियान
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**
The General Public is informed that my client **Mr. Dhirendra Pradhan S/o Bidyut Chandra Pradhan** intends to purchase the property described in the schedule herein under, from joint owners/Sellers **Smt Gayathri Valsan W/o Sri. Valsan R & Sri. Valsan R., S/o. Late Sri. Raman Kutty Nair,** having purchased the from **M/s KarnaSree Developers and Builders.** The owners/sellers represents and warrant that they are the joint owners of the schedule property and they have not conveyed or entered into any Agreement to Sell/MOU or any sort of agreement with any other person/s, for sale/transfer of the schedule property and that the owners/sellers further represents and warrants that they have not encumbered, mortgaged or created any lien on the schedule property in any manner and apart from them, no other person/s, includes legal heirs, Firm or Company having any sort of right, title or claim over the schedule property. Any person/s having any objection/s or claim/s shall with documentary evidence lodge their objection/s, claim/s, within **Seven (07) days** from the date of this notice with the undersigned, failing which my client shall proceed with the above mentioned transaction.
**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**
All that piece and parcel of **Flat No. 408 (3BHK),** on 3rd Floor, in **"Mathru Sree Silver Oak"** measuring super built up area of 1402 sqft, in the building being constructed on **Sy no.21,** measuring **27 guntas,** converted for residential use, measuring UDS 580 sqft. situated at **Medahalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk,** under BBMP limits, Ward No.13, and bounded on
**East by : Flat no. 409. West by : Satsang. North by : Road. South by : Set Back**
**Prashanth B.K,** Advocate,
No.17, Sir M V 2nd Cross, Kalkere Main Road, Ramamurthynagar
Bengaluru-560016 M : 09900056401
Bengaluru Date : 13-05-2026

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**IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE 3 ADDL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE BENGALURU RURAL, AT BENGALURU**
**O.S. No. 1045/2022**
**BETWEEN:**
**Sri. Ajay Chacko Joseph.** ....Plaintiff
**AND**
**Sri.Joseph Chacko & Anr,** ....Defendants
**NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS**
**(1) Sri. Joseph Chacko,** S/o Late PJ Chacko Aged about 65 years
**(2) Sri. Anil Chacko,** S/o Joseph Chacko Aged about 29 years
Both residing at: No. 176/B, Park avenue, Horamavu Agara, Near Vincent Palloti School, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore 560 043.
**Whereas** Sri. Ajay Joseph Chacko, S/o Joseph Chacko, aged about 28 years, R/a No.152, T Chennaiah Layout, Sai Hospital Road, Nagawara, Bangalore 560045 has filed Case in O.S. No. 1045/2022 claiming (i) "Judgment and decree declare that the Plaintiffs and Defendant entitled 1/3 share in the schedule properties" (ii)To put the Plaintiff in possession and enjoyment of the suit schedule property by dividing meets and bounds through competent revenue authority against Sri. Joseph Chacko, S/o Late PJ Chacko, Aged about 65 years and Sri. Anil Chacko, S/o Joseph Chacko, Aged about 29 years, Both residing at: No.176/B, Park avenue, Horamavu Agara, Near Vincent Palloti School, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560 043, which is pending before the Hon'ble 3rd Addl Senior Civil Judge Bangalore Rural, Bangalore. After knowing this notice you are hereby directed to appear before this Hon'ble Court hearing of the said case is fixed **on at 11.00 A.M** you are hereby directed to appear **18/08/2026** on that day and time before the court personally or through your advocate, failing which the matter will be heard and determined ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this **28/04/2026**
**SCHEDULE PROPERTIES**
**Item No.1 :** All the piece and parcel of the land in SY **No.43,** measuring 15 Acres and 34 Guntas, Situated at **Bendiganahalli, Sulebele Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore District** and bounded as :
**East by:** Land of Ramegowda and Other, **West by :** Land of Begur Nanjudappa, **North by:** Land of Muniyappa & Ramappa and Chikka Venkatappa, **South by:** Land of Bathiganahalli Muniswamappa property
**Item No.2 :** All the piece and parcel of the land in **SY No.42,** new Sy No.42/1 measuring 5 Acres and 5 Guntas, Situated at **Bendiganahalli, Sulebele Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore District** and bounded as
**East by :** Land of Marappa & Others, **West by :** Land of Muniyappa & Others, **North by :** Land of Chikka Venkate Gowda, **South by:** Road & Land of Bathiganahalli Muniswamappa property
**Item No.3 :** All the piece and parcel of the land in SY No. 128, New SY No. 128/1 measuring 5 Acres and 33 Guntas, Situated at **Bendiganahalli, Sulebele Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore District** and bounded as
**East by:** Land of Ramappa &Chikka Venkate Gowda, **West by:** Road and Muniyappa Property, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Land of Pilla Basappa and Others.
**BY ORDER OF THE COURT**
**CHIEF MINISTERIAL OFFICER**
**Senior Civil Judge Court**
**Bengaluru Rural Dist, Bengaluru**
Advocate for the Plaintiff:-
**Adv. C.V.SIJU, M/S LAW LINKS**
115, 1st Floor, Richmond Tower.
Richmond Road, Bangalore 560 025
M : 9845062318 / 9902062318

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
MINISTRY OF FINANCE, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1 BENGALURU**
Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru -560001
**PROCLAMATION OF SALE CUM E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE**
**ISSUED UNDER RULE 52(2) OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993** (As Amended From Time To Time)
**RC No.187/2024 in OA. No.1478/2018**
**BETWEEN : KARNATAKA GRAMEENA BANK,** (Erstwhile Karnataka Gramin Bank) , Bellandur Branch, Bengaluru District, **....Certificate Holder**
**V/s**
**Sri B. K. Krishna Murthy & Others** **.... Certificate Debtors**
**To:**
**(CD 1) : Sri B. K. Krishnamurthy** S/o. Late Sri B. R. Krishnappa, No. 251, Halubavi Road, Varthur Village and Post, Bengaluru - 560 087. **(CD 2) : Sri B. K. Manjunatha** S/o. Late Sri B. R. Krishnappa, No. 256, Halubavi Road, Varthur Village and Post, Bengaluru - 560 087. **.... Certificate Debtors (CDs)**
The under mentioned property will be sold by '**online e-Auction'** through web site: **www.bankauctions.in** on **03.07.2026** for recovery of an amount of **Rs.35,94,851/-** (Rupees Thirty Five Lakhs Ninety Four Thousand Eighty Hundred and Fifty One Only) as on 01.05.2026 . The futures interest is chargeable at the same rate till realization of debt as per recovery certificate bearing **RC No.187/2024 in OA No. 1478/2018.**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Date, Time of Auction** | **03.07.2026 at beween 11.00 A. M. to 12.30 P.M.** |
| **Reserve Price** | **Rs.99,00,000/-** (Rupees Ninety Nine Lakhs Only) |
| **Earnest Money Deposit** | **Rs.9,90,000/-** (Rupees Nine Lakhs Ninety Thousand Only) |
| **Bid Increment Amount** | **Rs.1,00,000/-** (Rupees One Lakh Only) |
| **Last day for Bid Submission** | **by 4.00 P.M. on 01.07.2026** |

**SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY :** ( Mortgaged Immovable Property standing in the name of B. K. Krishna Murthy) All thate part and parcel of immovable property bearing BBMP Khatha No. 253/128/1/140/1, measuring East to West 24 1/2 feet and North to South 33 feet formed in Sy. No. 89, Now property comes under BBMP limits Mahadevapura Sub- Division, situated at Varthur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk and bounded on East by : Remaining Portion of the property to Smt. Padma, West : Govt. Oni/ Galli North : Remaining Portion of the same property belongs to N. Venkatesh, South by : Road.
For Terms and condition of sale visit website: **www.bankauctions.in, M/s.4closure India Pvt. Ltd., (Contact person: Mr. Varun , mob: 8142000809, e mail Id : info@bankauctions.in.**
For further details contact: **Sri Rakshith Kumar B. R., Branch Manager, Karnataka Grameena Bank, Bellandur Branch, Bangalore District - Mob : 9590023800 & Sri Vivek Sharma, Chief Manager, ARM Branch, Bengaluru- 9845671504, e-mail Id : br2200@kgbk.in or arm@kgbk.in** for ascertaining the details of property and also for inspection of properties.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal at Bangalore on **07.05.2026.**
**Sd/-**
**Recovery Officer -I**
**DRT-1, Bengaluru**

ABSTRACT

Beginning in the 1980s, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank began structural adjustment programmes across Asia, Africa and Latin America. GETTY IMAGES

# The toll of structural adjustments on the global South and a case for accountability

In the 1980s, IMF and World Bank put conditions on financing the global South. Decades later, many countries in the regions struggle with weak public health systems and high levels of poverty. The institutions owe reparations for the damage caused, a new paper argues.

**Areena Arora**

*Jason Hickel, Salmaan Keshavjee, Maxine Burkett and Eugene T. Richardson, "Structural adjustment: damages, reparations and pathways to non-recurrence", BMJ Global Health, March 2026.*

The 1970s were a good decade for the global South. Between 1960 and 1980, real per capita income grew across Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Countries that had recently thrown off colonial rule were investing in public healthcare and education, protecting their industries, and organising production around national development.

Then, beginning in the 1980s, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank began structural adjustment programmes across Asia, Africa and Latin America. Decades later, many countries in the impact regions continue to struggle with weak public health systems, stagnant incomes and high levels of poverty.

In a recent paper published in *BMJ Global Health*, economists and public health researchers Jason Hickel, Salmaan Keshavjee, Maxine Burkett, and Eugene T. Richardson argue that the institutions that implemented these programmes now owe reparations.

**The repayment burden**

Structural adjustment programmes emerged during the debt crises of the late 1970s and 1980s. Many developing countries had borrowed heavily in foreign currencies to finance imports and industrial development. When the United States Federal Reserve raised interest rates in the late 1970s, debt repayments became far more expensive for poorer countries, causing decades-long progress to unravel.

Countries that had borrowed in U.S. dollars suddenly faced ballooning repayments in a currency they had no control over. To prevent governments in the global South from defaulting on loans owed to American banks, the U.S. worked through the IMF and World Bank to roll over those debts, attaching a set of sweeping economic reforms as conditions that would come to be known as structural adjustment programmes, or SAPs.

SAPs typically demanded three things. First, austerity: slash public spending on healthcare, education, food subsidies, and social security, so that the money saved could flow back to creditors. Second, privatisation; by transfering public services and state-owned industries to private capital. And, third, by deregulating industrial policy, tariffs, capital controls, and labour protections.

Countries had limited room to refuse. Defaulting on loans was risky, and the institutions pushing these conditions controlled international finance.

These SAPs should also be viewed in a longer historical context. After independence, many governments in the global South had used industrial policy and public investment to break away from colonial economic arrangements that kept labour and resources cheap for Western firms. The SAPs effectively reversed these gains, re-cheapening southern labour and re-opening vulnerable markets to the global North.

**Social and economic setback**

Economic growth in the global South before SAPs averaged around 3.2% annually. But growth slowed sharply, falling to a mere 0.7% during the era of structural adjustment in the 1980s and 1990s. The South collectively lost an average of $480 billion per year in potential national income during this period.

In Latin America, real income per adult fell nearly 15% after 1980 and did not recover to previous levels until 2006. In Sub-Saharan Africa, incomes fell nearly 20% before eventually recovering decades later. In Jamaica, trade and exchange-rate liberalisation in the early 1990s caused food prices to rise sharply after currency depreciation. In China, extreme poverty rose during a phase of market-oriented reforms linked to World Bank adjustment policies.

The effects on health were also severe. A 2017 review found that SAPs imposed by the IMF, World Bank, and African Development Bank had a strong negative impact on child and maternal health. Studies on Sub-Saharan Africa linked adjustment to an additional 85.62 child deaths per 1,000 children and an additional 360 maternal deaths per 1,00,000 live births. In Kenya, the authors calculate, 3,05,000 excess infant deaths occurred between 1986 and 2010 relative to the pre-adjustment trend.

The mechanisms are not hard to trace. SAPs cut government spending on health, led to the closure of facilities, and limited the hiring of doctors and nurses. Currency devaluation made imported drugs and medical supplies more expensive. Privatisation and user fees reduced access to essential services, and wage losses made families more vulnerable to disease in the first place.

Structural adjustment also enabled large financial outflows from the global South. The removal of capital controls allowed foreign companies to repatriate profits at up to $250 billion a year. Trade deregulation enabled further outflows exceeding $1 trillion per year, mostly to evade taxes. These were surpluses generated within developing countries that were no longer available for reinvestment in public services or domestic development.

**Responsibility for repair**

The IMF and World Bank, as the primary architects of these programmes, should bear responsibility for repair. One approach the authors outline would be to quantify wage losses, cuts to public services, and capital outflows attributable to SAPs, adjusted for inflation and due interest. Another mechanism would be to calculate losses to national income against a counterfactual in which the adjustments were never imposed. A third would focus specifically on welfare impacts, such as poverty and mortality, to provide compensation that restores people to the social indicators they would have reached had SAPs never existed.

But reparations face procedural obstacles, put in place by design. The IMF and World Bank enjoy sovereign immunity, shielding them from lawsuits through normal channels. Their governance structure compounds the problem. The Global North, with a mere 15% of the world's population, controls nearly 60% of the voting power in both institutions. The U.S. alone holds a veto.

Beyond reparations, the paper calls for a guarantee of non-recurrence by abolishing structural adjustment conditions on all future lending, democratising both institutions so that aid recipients have a meaningful say in policy, and ending their sovereign immunity status.

If such transformative changes cannot happen from within, these institutions should be replaced entirely. Alternatives are already emerging, including the BRICS New Development Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, established by and for the global South. Neither attaches structural adjustment conditions to finance.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

## The 79th Festival de Cannes kicked off yesterday, and will continue till May 23, 2026. Here's a quiz on one of the world's most prestigious film festivals.

**Mohammed Hidhayat**

**QUESTION 1**

Palme d'Or (earlier Grand Prix), the top prize at the festival, is awarded to the director of the best feature film. Who among the following is not a recipient of the award?

Francis Ford Coppola, Andrei Tarkovsky, Akira Kurosawa, David Lynch, Martin Scorsese and Orson Welles.

**QUESTION 2**

Name the Indian filmmaker heading the Cannes Critics Week jury this year. Her film won the Grand Prix, the second-most prestigious prize of the festival, in 2024.

**QUESTION 3**

Jane Campion, Julia Ducournau and Justine Triet are the only woman directors to have received the festival's top prize. Name the films for which they won.

**QUESTION 4**

The 1968 festival was shut down after Jean-Luc Godard, along with François Truffaut, and other prominent filmmakers interrupted and blocked screenings. Why did they do this?

**QUESTION 5**

Name the only Indian film to receive top honours at the festival. It was screened at the first Cannes Film Festival in 1946.

**QUESTION 6**

Which restored Malayalam classic is being showcased at Cannes 2026?

**Visual question:** The official poster for Cannes 2026 features Susan Sarandon and Geena Davis on the set of their 1991 film. Name the movie and its director. AFP

**Questions and answers to the previous day's daily quiz:** 1. This instrument is used to measure earthquakes. **Ans: Seismograph (or seismometer)**
2. This scale is commonly used today to measure the magnitude of an earthquake. **Ans: Moment Magnitude Scale (Mw)**
3. The point inside the Earth where an earthquake originates. **Ans: Hypocentre (or focus)**
4. Name of the boundary where one tectonic plate moves beneath another? **Ans: Subduction zone**
5. The point on the Earth's surface directly above the focus. **Ans: Epicentre**
Visual: This Italian volcanologist developed the intensity scale for measuring earthquake intensity. **Ans: Giuseppe Mercalli**
**Early birds:** Piyali Tuli | Dil Bahadur Airee |Aaradhya Yadav| Ritika | Abhay Krishan

FROM THE ARCHIVES

## *Know your English*

**S. Upendran**

"He has the runs and I am sure he will...."
"....how do you know he has the runs?"
"Just look at the score card. You will see..."
"....oh, you are talking about cricket. I thought you were talking about something else."
"Something else? You don't score runs in football or volleyball, do you?"
"No, you don't. You see, when you say that someone 'has the runs', it means that he has diarrhoea."
"Good grief! You are joking, right?"
"No, I am not. I can say, Gopal had the runs last week."
"I am sure many of our leading cricketeers had the runs when Income Tax officials raided their houses."
"You could be right."
"Let's change the topic, shall we? Have you seen Harish recently? Sujatha tells me that he has been called for an interview tomorrow."
"Saw him yesterday."
"How was he?"
"As expected, he was like a cat on a hot tin roof."
"A cat on a hot tin roof! What does it mean?"
"What do you expect a cat to do when it finds itself on a hot tin roof?"
"I guess the poor thing will jump from one spot to another pretty quickly."
"That's right, it will be pretty jumpy. And that's what the expression 'like a cat on a hot tin roof' means. Jumpy or nervous."
"I see. Can I say, Mohan was like a cat on a hot tin roof the day before he got married?"
"Most people are pretty nervous the day before they tie the knot."
"While he waited for the telephone call, he was like a cat on a hot tin roof."
"That's a good example. Can you think of another expression which means nervous?"
"Hmm, let me see. How about 'butterflies in the stomach'."
"Excellent. When you say you have 'butterflies in your stomach', it means you have a nervous feeling in your stomach. For example, whenever I have to meet my boss, I get butterflies in my stomach."
"I always have butterflies in my stomach just before a physics test."
"Most people have butterflies in their stomach when they make a presentation."
"That's true. Luckily I have never been asked to make one."
"It's also possible to say 'give butterflies in one's stomach' as well. It means to cause someone to have a nervous stomach."
"Watching the horror movie gave Lalitha butterflies in her stomach."
"Listening to our politicians gives me butterflies in the stomach."
"It gives me a headache."
"Give me another expression which means nervous. But something that sounds funny."
"How about 'heebie-jeebies'?"
"What?"
"Heebie-jeebies. When you give someone the heebie-jeebies, you make them extremely nervous."
"My school Principal gives me the heebie-jeebies. How does that sound?"
"Sounds O.K. There's something about a visit to the dentist which gives me the heebie-jeebies."
*Published in The Hindu on August 8, 2000*

## Word of the day

**Acrimonious:**
marked by strong resentment or cynicism

Synonym: bitter

Usage: *The debate turned acrimonious as both sides traded sharp accusations.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/76PxNR/acrimonious

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˌæk.ɹɪˈməʊ.nɪ.əs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

# NEET cancellation: Students uncertain, frustrated

Minister M.C. Sudhakar says it is high time the Centre submit an affidavit to the SC about its inability to conduct NEET and allow States to conduct admissions to medical courses at their level

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Fear and frustration gripped medical seat aspirants in Karnataka after the National Testing Agency (NTA) cancelled the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) 2026 held on May 3 and announced a re-examination following the leakage of question papers, throwing the futures of lakhs of students into uncertainty. This year, around 1.50 lakh students across the State wrote the UGNEET.

Krishi (name changed), said, "This was my third attempt at NEET. I was really hoping to get into a college this year. I have given this exam three years of my life, and with the paper leak, I am left in a state of hopelessness and anxiety about my future, as I am not sure how well I can prepare for the re-examination." She urged that agencies concerned get to the core of this issue and make sure incidents like these don't repeat.

BJP'S PAPER LEAK FACTORY
89 PAPER LEAKS IN 10 YEARS
STOP PLAYING WITH STUDENTS' FUTURE!
89 PAPER LEAKS IN 10 YEARS
WHO IS RESPONSIBLE MODI JI?
NEET UG 2026
PAPER LEAK SCAM!
MODI!
WHO IS RESPONSIBLE, MODI JI?
BJP TURNED NEET FROM AN EXAM INTO A DEAL.
NOW
Members of Youth Congress staging a protest against the cancellation of NEET 2026 in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Dhyan, another student, said, "I have sacrificed two years for NEET, and this time, the exam went well. There was a possibility of getting a good rank. But now the exam has been cancelled. I fear how the re-examination will go."

Meanwhile, condemning the NEET cancellation, members of the Youth Congress staged a protest against the Union government at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Tuesday evening.

**'Warned in 2024'**
Taking to X, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said, "In 2024 itself, our government had placed Karnataka's concerns on record: NEET is unfair to rural and poor students, weakens school education, and takes away the States' rightful authority over admissions. Today's cancellation proves that our concerns were real, urgent and rooted in the interests of students."

Karnataka Medical Education Minister Sharanprakash Patil termed the cancellation "a grave injustice to lakhs of aspiring medical students across the country".

"For the past four to five years, irregularities and controversies in NEET have been a recurring phenomenon with no end in sight," he said.

**Coaching centres' role**
Dr. Patil alleged that coaching centres in Rajasthan and Haryana are actively orchestrating question paper leaks to boost their own reputation and business. "Elements within the Union government are complicit in this racket. The Union Minister concerned must resign immediately. Strict regulatory action should be taken against coaching centres indulging in such malpractices," he added.

Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar said that it is high time for the Union government to submit an affidavit to the Supreme Court about its inability to conduct the NEET exams and allow States to conduct admissions to medical courses at their level.

"Our State had already passed a resolution regarding the scrapping of NEET. We have been conducting admissions to engineering courses without any such malpractice. Let the Centre conduct separate tests for All India Quota," said the Minister. Dr. Sudhakar further stated that Karnataka's CET is a successful model.

School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa said repeated loopholes in the NEET examination system are having a serious impact on the mental state of students. "We are constantly trying to reduce the academic and mental stress of children at the school level. However, such irresponsible decisions of the Central government are pushing children and parents into a pit of despair," the Minister stated. Meanwhile, the Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy criticised the State Congress leaders and said, "Let the Karnataka government clean the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) first. Let the State government answer how many exams they have postponed. Congress has no morality to question the Centre on the cancellation of NEET."

**Unions react**
Student organisations like All India Democratic Students Organisation (AIDSO) and All India Save Education Committee (AISEC) also condemned the cancellation of NEET.

Ajay Kamath, State Secretary, AIDSO Karnataka, demanded the abolition of the National Testing Agency (NTA), which has lost the trust of the country by repeatedly failing to conduct examinations transparently and securely.

"There must be a high-level independent judicial inquiry to track down the individuals and the coaching mafia behind the paper leak, and the guilty must receive exemplary punishment," he said.

Akhila Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishath-Karnataka (ABVP) urged strict and decisive action against the "education mafia" threatening the integrity of examinations.

"The decision of the Union government to hand over the investigation into the alleged paper leak and irregularities in the NEET to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is an appropriate and necessary step," it stated.

# 5-day CET Seat Allotment Manthana 2026 in govt. colleges from May 25

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The 'CET Seat Allotment Manthana 2026' awareness programme related to admissions for professional courses will be conducted from May 25 to 30 in all government and aided engineering, medical, and dental colleges across the State, said Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) Executive Director H. Prasanna.

He was speaking at a seat allotment "Manthana" training workshop organised at the KEA office in Bengaluru for representatives of government and aided engineering, medical, and dental colleges.

Three to four lecturers from each college were invited and were given day-long training on the seat allotment process. More than 170 lecturers participated in the workshop.

Last year, the workshop was held only in engineering colleges, but this year, it will also be conducted in medical and dental colleges, he explained.

He said that last year, some confusion arose because the programme was organised within a short time-frame.

However, this year, the KEA will launch an app through which the participants can reserve dates and time slots in advance, helping avoid last-minute confusion. Training workshops in colleges will be conducted only for those who have booked the slots.

People will be made aware of option entry, seat allotment, choice entry, fee payment, and admission procedures.

Mohammed Mohsin, Additional Chief Secretary of the Medical Education Department, who inaugurated the workshop, suggested that colleges also use the Manthana programme to showcase their academic environment to students and parents.

**Open day**
He said colleges should declare an "open day" and allow visitors to see laboratories, libraries, hostels, canteens, and other facilities. This would help avoid complaints after admission about a lack of facilities.

# HPV vaccination drive in State crosses 2 lakh mark; Kalaburagi leads, Bengaluru trails

**Afshan Yasmeen**
BENGALURU

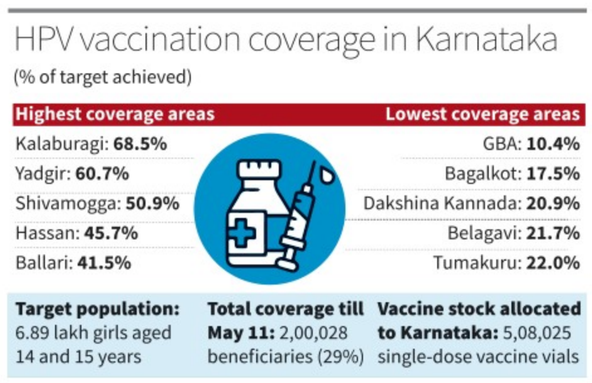
Karnataka's Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign for adolescent girls has crossed the two-lakh mark, with 2,00,028 beneficiaries covered so far. This accounts for 29% of the total target population of 6.89 lakh girls aged between 14 years and 15 years in the State.

Official data available till Monday showed that 39.4% of the 5,08,025 single-dose vaccine vials stock allotted to the State had been utilised so far.

The HPV vaccine is considered a key preventive intervention against cervical cancer, one of the leading cancers affecting women in India.

On February 28, the Union government formally launched a nationwide HPV vaccination programme, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Ajmer, Rajasthan. Following this, Karnataka initiated its State-level rollout on the same day at K.C. General Hospital.

In Karnataka, the vaccine is being administered through Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (Primary Health Centres), Community Health Centres, taluk and district hospitals, and government medical colleges.




The campaign, aimed at protecting girls against HPV, has shown sharp regional variation, with northern Karnataka districts leading the campaign, while Bengaluru and some southern districts have recorded slower progress.

**Highest in Kalaburagi**
Kalaburagi has emerged as the best-performing district, covering 20,511 beneficiaries and achieving 68.5% of its target. It has also utilised 94.2% of the vaccine stock allocated to it. Yadgir followed with 8,658 beneficiaries and 60.7% target achievement. Shivamogga stood third with 50.9%, while Hassan (45.7%) and Ballari (41.5%) completed the top five districts in terms of coverage.

**Of the 5,08,025 single-dose vaccine vials received so far, nearly 61% of stocks are still available**

Other districts that crossed the 35% mark include Koppal (39.2%), Bengaluru South (38.1%), Chikkamagaluru (37.8%), Raichur (37.4%), Bengaluru Rural (36.8%) and Kolar (35.8%). Health officials attributed the stronger performance in these districts to effective mobilisation, better coordination between district administrations and health officials, and regular follow-up by Deputy Commissioners and local field staff.

**Lowest in GBA area**
At the other end, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) region recorded the lowest progress in the State.

Against the highest target of 1,18,339 beneficiaries, only 12,257 girls had been vaccinated till May 11, translating to 10.4% target achievement and 14.3% stock utilisation.

Bagalkot (17.5%), Dakshina Kannada (20.9%), Belagavi (21.7%) and Tumakuru (22%) were also among the areas with slower progress.

Mysuru, despite a relatively high target of 32,946 girls, had covered 7,777 beneficiaries, or 23.6%. Bengaluru Urban stood at 26.7%.

**Beneficiaries**
The average number of beneficiaries vaccinated per session across Karnataka was seven. Raichur recorded the highest session productivity with 18 beneficiaries per session, followed by Vijayapura with 15. Kalaburagi, Koppal and Bagalkot averaged 12 beneficiaries per session.

In contrast, Bengaluru Urban averaged only three beneficiaries per session, while GBA, Kodagu, Chickballapur and Dakshina Kannada averaged four.

**Urban vs. rural**
Officials said urban areas may be facing challenges such as parental hesitancy, school vacations, migration and scheduling constraints, unlike rural districts where outreach through community networks has been smoother.

**Vaccine stocks**
Of the 5,08,025 single-dose vaccine vials received so far, nearly 61% of stocks are still available.

The Health Department is expected to intensify the campaign in low-performing districts in the coming weeks.

# Student killed trying to retrieve hall ticket on highway

**The Hindu Bureau**
KALABURAGI

An 18-year-old PU student died on the spot after being hit by a vehicle while he was trying to retrieve his examination hall ticket that had blown onto the highway near Chigaralli Cross in Jewargi taluk of Kalaburagi district on Monday afternoon.

The deceased has been identified as Adarsh Madivalappa Gurshetty, a resident of Yadrami town.

According to the police, Adarsh travelled to Jewargi town along with his friends from Yadrami on Monday morning to appear for the II PU supplementary examination. After completing the exam, the group was returning to Yadrami on a two-wheeler when Adarsh was killed.

The students reportedly stopped the bike by the roadside near Chigaralli Cross on the national highway. During this time, Adarsh's examination hall ticket was blown away by wind and it fell on the highway.

While trying to retrieve the hall ticket, Adarsh was hit by the vehicle. The impact was severe and he died on the spot. A case has been registered.

**Timings**
**BENGALURU**

| | |
|---|---|
| **WEDNESDAY, MAY. 13** | |
| RISE | 05:55 SET 18:37 |
| RISE | 02:47 SET 15:15 |
| **THURSDAY, MAY. 14** | |
| RISE | 05:55 SET 18:37 |
| RISE | 03:29 SET 16:11 |
| **FRIDAY, MAY. 15** | |
| RISE | 05:55 SET 18:38 |
| RISE | 04:13 SET 17:10 |

| Bengaluru Weather | max | min |
|---|---|---|
| Tumakuru | 34 | 15 |
| Mysuru | 34 | 22 |
| Bengaluru | 34 | 23 |

**Bengaluru Today**
**35°C** The weather will be dry. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant.

**Bengaluru Tomorrow**
**34°C** Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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# AI, GIS-enabled Kartavya-KAAMS app launched for attendance of school teachers, non-teaching staff

**Jayanth R.**
BENGALURU

The Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) has launched the 'Karnataka Advanced Attendance Management System (Kartavya-KAAMS) to identify and monitor the attendance of permanent teaching and non-teaching staff and officers.

The Kartavya-KAAMS is an artificial intelligence (AI) and geographic information system (GIS) enabled facial recognition mobile app.

It is mandatory for teaching and non-teaching staff to register attendance twice a day on the app from the place where they are on duty from the academic year 2026-27.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, in the State Budget for 2025-26, had announced that the Kartavya-KAAMS would be implemented in all departments. State government employees can download this mobile application and register with the KGID number registered in HRMS and record attendance at their place of duty.

It is mandatory for teaching and non-teaching staff to register attendance twice a day on the app from the place where they are on duty from the academic year 2026-27. FILE PHOTO

The DSEL is the largest department of the State government, and a large number of permanent teachers are working in government primary and high schools, and as staff in offices. However, the monitoring of attendance, which is being done through a physical or decentralised mechanism, is not administratively efficient and consistent.

For the continuous professional development of teachers and to ensure improvement in the quality of education, effective implementation of government policies and educational reforms, training programmes are being implemented to enhance subject knowledge, academic skills and professional competencies. These training programmes are conducted at various centres at the State, District and Block levels. In addition, the DSEL conducts the secure evaluation process of SSLC exam answer sheets at the district level at various evaluation centres.

Using this mobile app ensures the identification of the attendance of authorised permanent staff through secure login with facial recognition of the staff, officials said, adding that the attendance is reflected on the department dashboard, and reports are sent to the higher authorities of the department swiftly.

"Steps have been taken to identify the attendance in a way that leaves no room for irregularities and corrections, with the help of modern technologies such as GIS and AI," reads the order. In addition, the departmental competent authorities have been asked to use the data reports for teacher performance analysis, assignment of teachers, rationalization of staff, and payment of salaries.

This move has been welcomed by teachers and the School Development and Monitoring Committee (SDMC). "The government's move to implement the Kartavya-KAAMS mobile app for the attendance of teachers and staff is right. However, the government should take appropriate steps to ensure that the personal information of teachers is not leaked or hacked in any way," the headmaster of a government school in Bengaluru said.

G. Umesh Gangavadi, State president of SDMC, said, "The government is also planning to implement a facial recognition attendance system for school children. However, teacher attendance is important in schools, and the government was urged to implement a facial recognition system for teacher attendance before students. It is good that the government is now implementing attendance of teachers and staff through a separate mobile app."

**PUBLIC NOTICE**
My Client intends to purchase from its joint and absolute owners i.e., **(i) MR. MOHAMMED RASUL; (ii) MR. AFROZ KHAN; and (iii) MR. V LOKESH REDDY,** all that piece and parcel of agricultural land bearing **Sy. No. 43/1** measuring **2 ACRES 36.08 GUNTAS together with 3 GUNTAS 'A' POT KHARAB and 9 GUNTAS 'B' POT KHARAB,** totally measuring **3 ACRES 8.08 GUNTAS situated at KURANDAHALLI VILLAGE, KASABA HOBLI, MALUR TALUK, KOLAR DISTRICT** and bounded on the East by : Byalahalli Road; West by : Property of Ramachandra Rao; North by : Tank Road; and South by : Property of Venkoba Rao.
Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person asserting any right, title, claim, tenancy, mortgage, charge, lien or any other interest whatsoever in respect of the aforesaid land are hereby called upon to submit objections in writing together with documentary proof of such claim, so as to reach me at the address given below within a period of **1 (one) Week** from the date of publication of this notice. If no such objections are received, it shall be deemed that the aforesaid persons have a clear and marketable title to the aforesaid land and that none else has any right, title, interest or claim whatsoever in respect of the aforesaid land and my Client would be at liberty to purchase the aforesaid land.
**M B Anirudh, Advocate**
No. 6, S Kariyappa Road,
Earlier South Cross Road
Basavanagudi, Bengaluru 560004
Mobile : 9845593802
E-mail: info@mbanirudh.com

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# Veerashaiva-Lingayat leaders seek 'fair representation' in RS

No leader from the community has been elected to the Rajya Sabha in 25 years; four seats to fall vacant on June 25

**Nagesh Prabhu**
BENGALURU

With four Rajya Sabha seats from Karnataka falling vacant next month (June 25), leaders and workers from the Veerashaiva-Lingayat community have begun demanding at least two tickets for their community to ensure "adequate representation" in the Upper House of Parliament.

No leader from the Veerashaiva-Lingayat community has been elected to the Rajya Sabha from the electoral college of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly in the last 25 years. M.V. Rajasekharan was the last Veerashaiva-Lingayat leader elected to the Rajya Sabha from the State in 2002. He later served as Minister of State for Planning in the UPA government.

B. Jayashree, theatre actress, was nominated to the Rajya Sabha in 2010 by the UPA government.

A file photo of the Rajya Sabha.

**Retiring members**

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, Janata Dal (Secular) supremo H.D. Deve Gowda, and BJP members K. Narayana and Eranna Kadadi are set to retire from the Rajya Sabha on June 25. The Election Commission is expected to announce the election schedule soon.

Over the years, the Congress has elected leaders such as S.M. Krishna, Rajeev Gowda, and G.C. Chandrashekar (all from the Vokkaliga community), K.C. Ramamurthy (Reddy Vokkaliga), Mr. Kharge and L. Hanumanthaiah (Dalit), Syed Naseer Hussain (Muslim), B.K. Hariprasad (OBC), Oscar Fernandes (Christian), and Jairam Ramesh (Brahmin), besides Ajay Maken, former Delhi Congress president, to the Rajya Sabha. In 2020, the Congress had also supported JD(S) candidate Mr. Deve Gowda for election to the Rajya Sabha.

Following the Congress's decision to field sons/daughters of Ministers in the Legislative Assembly, Legislative Council, and Lok Sabha elections, several grassroots-level party leaders and workers have started voicing concerns over being denied opportunities and are now seeking representation in the Rajya Sabha.

A party functionary said that although there is a significant presence of Veerashaiva-Lingayat voters in several Assembly constituencies in the Old Mysore region, the community has not received adequate representation.

Only two MLAs of the ruling Congress – K. Shadakshari (Tiptur) and Ganesh Prasad (Gundlupet) – currently represent the community in the region. Moreover, the community has no representation in the AICC office-bearers' list.

**Family members only**

Another party leader alleged that many Congress "dynastic" leaders appear more focused on promoting their own family members than supporting loyal party workers.

According to the leader, there is growing dissatisfaction among grassroots workers, who feel that senior leaders are ignoring their grievances.

In the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections, the Congress is expected to seek the re-election of Mr. Kharge. Several senior and junior leaders are already vying for the two additional seats the party is likely to win.

**How numbers stack up**

The Congress, which has 135 members in the Assembly, is expected to retain three Rajya Sabha seats from Karnataka. In addition, two BJP legislators – S.T. Somashekar and Shivaram Hebbar – have turned rebels and are considered close to the Congress. An Independent MLA is also likely to support the ruling party. The BJP-JD(S) alliance is expected to secure one seat.

Members of the Muslim community had earlier expressed displeasure over the denial of a ticket for the Davangere South Assembly Constituency. Sources said Veerashaiva-Lingayat leaders, too, may feel disappointed if the party fails to nominate a representative from the community to the Rajya Sabha.

"The failure to provide tickets to grassroots leaders and workers could adversely impact the Congress' prospects in the 2028 Assembly elections," the leader said.

# Sringeri recount row: Speaker says Raje Gowda will continue as MLA

**The Hindu Bureau**
MYSURU/BENGALURU

Karnataka Legislative Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader on Tuesday said that since the Supreme Court had stayed the recount result of the Sringeri Legislative Assembly Constituency, Congress leader T.D. Raje Gowda will continue as MLA.

The Supreme Court on Monday provided interim relief to Mr. Gowda by allowing him to continue as MLA of the constituency for the time being.

Mr. Gowda had appealed to the Supreme Court after a recount of postal ballots was done following a High Court order. The recount showed the numbers lean in favour of his rival and BJP candidate D.N. Jeevaraj.

Asked about the dispute that led to Mr. Jeevaraj taking oath after the Election Commission of India (ECI) declared him elected following the recount, Mr. Khader described it as the "beauty of Indian democracy".

Sources indicated that Mr. Khader had administered the oath to Mr. Jeevaraj following political pressure from higher authorities.

T.D. Raje Gowda

**Awaiting EC order**

Meanwhile, sources in the State Secretariat said the Speaker's office is awaiting directions from the ECI on the matter. A senior official said the decision on the oath-taking ceremony will be taken based on the ECI's order. The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) in Karnataka is also awaiting directions from the ECI in New Delhi.

**No MLA at present?**

Referring to the Supreme Court's interim order, a senior Congress leader said the court had kept "the exercise undertaken by the returning officer in abeyance till the appeal is decided", implying that there is currently no MLA representing the Sringeri Assembly Constituency.

**The SC on Monday provided interim relief to the Congress leader by allowing him to continue as Sringeri MLA for the time being**

Mr. Khader also declined to comment on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal for austerity measures. He said it is for the government and the Opposition to respond to such issues, as he now holds the Constitutional office of Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

"I can only pray for the war to stop and normalcy to be restored," he said.

**Rival reacts**

Meanwhile, Mr. Jeevaraj, reacting to the Supreme Court's order, has stated that he will respect the court's ruling. However, he said he will continue the legal battle. "I will wait for the next hearing of the case in the Supreme Court," he told the media.

# Discussion held in Mysuru on bringing uniformity to State Legislative Assemblies

**The Hindu Bureau**
MYSURU

Presiding Officers of Legislative Assemblies of six States met in Mysuru on Tuesday as part of the deliberations to usher in uniformity in the procedures and conduct of all State Legislative Assemblies in the country.

The officers are part of a committee which has been constituted by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and will hold meetings and discuss ways to improve policies, rules, and procedures in the legislatures of all States.

Speaking to reporters after chairing the first meeting of the committee at a resort in Mysuru, Uttar Pradesh Assembly Speaker Satish Mahana, who is also the chairman of the committee, said the committee will hold discussions with Speakers of various State Legislative Assemblies and prepare a report.

PRELIMINARY MEETING OF THE "COMMITTEE OF PRESIDING OFFICERS
UNIFORM MODEL OF RULES OF PROCEDURE AND CONDUCT OF BUSINESS O

Presiding Officers of State Legislative Assemblies meeting in Mysuru on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Speakers of the Legislative Assemblies of Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, New Delhi, Karnataka, and Maharashtra – namely Sharingain Longkumar, Kuldeep Singh Pathania, Vijender Gupta, U.T. Khader, and Rahul Suresh Narwekar, respectively – also attended the meeting.

The committee will elicit suggestions from the Speakers of other States before preparing a report and submitting the same to the Lok Sabha Speaker, Mr. Mahana said.

The upcoming meeting is scheduled to be held in New Delhi in the next month and a half. The committee has been given six months' time to submit its report, he added.

The rules and procedures of the legislatures were framed 40 years ago, he noted, while pointing out that earlier, a generational change used to take place every 25 to 30 years. But nowadays, such a change is taking place faster, he said.

"Against this backdrop, the committee is working towards bringing uniformity by taking suggestions from all States for the functioning of legislatures. The committee is holding discussions with a focus on changes in various systems, including technology, infrastructure, and financial affairs, while keeping public welfare as the main objective," explained Mr. Mahana.

Karnataka Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader said that in 1891, Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar held a Representative Assembly meeting in Mysuru. The committee's first meeting was held in Mysuru in memory of the Representative Assembly's meeting, he pointed out.

# New liquor rates still being worked out

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Though the State's new excise regime kicked in on Monday, prices of various liquor brands are still being revised. While some prices of some brands were available on Monday, a few more were added on Tuesday. The excise officials are hopeful of completing the process in the next few days.

According to excise officials, the entry level low price-high alcohol content drinks have seen an increase in the range of ₹10 to ₹20 for 180 ml. The increase, calculated to be around 20%, will not affect the excise duty collection much, excise officials said, adding that despite the increase, the low cost-high alcohol content drinks in Karnataka continue to be cheapest among the South Indian States.

The entry level low price-high alcohol content drinks have seen an increase in the range of ₹10 to ₹20 for 180 ml.

On the other hand, the premium segment liquor is expected to see a price drop of up to ₹700 per bottle of 750 ml. "Expensive imported whisky will see the bigger drop compared to Indian Made Liquor (IML). Overall, all premium segment liquors will cost less," an official said.

**The premium segment liquor is expected to see a price drop of up to ₹700 per bottle of 750 ml**

Meanwhile, the Federation of Karnataka Wine Merchants Association said that its members were not able to lift the stock on Tuesday as well, with new rates of many brands/labels still not available. A member said that till late on Tuesday evening, they were not able to lift the stock.

Excise officials attributed the delay to manufacturers not yet providing the rate list and alcohol in beverage (content of pure alcohol in the bottle). The excise duty and additional excise duty is calculated automatically without manual intervention only after the two details are provided.

When asked if there was any shortage in retail outlets, federation souces said that retailers had stocked up well ahead of the new excise regime. "Stocks were lifted in April by most retailers, resulting in the highest sales in recent years. Basically, this was for profiteering," an office-bearer said.

As per figures, 68.17 lakh carton boxes of IML were sold in April 2026, against 57.55 lakh carton boxes sold in April 2025. While 50.39 lakh carton boxes of beer were sold in April 2026, 41.60 lakh carton boxes were sold in April 2025.

# ST delegation meets CM

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The State government is learnt to have promised a delegation of Scheduled Tribe leaders that an all-party delegation will be taken to the Centre to urge the Union government to insert the 56% reservation matrix in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution.

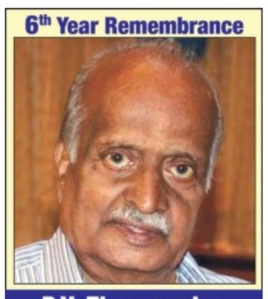
"Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has assured our delegation that an all-party meeting will be convened to discuss the issue and an all-party delegation will meet the PM to bring pressure to insert legislation providing 56% reservation in the Ninth Schedule," said V.S. Ugrappa, the former MP who led the delegation of Samana Manaskara Vedike of the Valmiki community in the State.

The reservation for ST in Karnataka has been reverted to 3% from 7% to overcome legal hurdles, though 7% reservation had been provided in proportion to the population of the 51 Scheduled Tribes in the State.

**OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE**

**REMEMBRANCE**

**6th Year Remembrance**



**P.V. Thyagarajan**

*The world changes from year to year, our lives from day to day, but the love and memory of you shall never pass away.*

*Fondly Remembered by*

**Wife:** Indira Thyagarajan
**Daughters:** Janani, Geetha
**Sons-in-law:** Kumar, Prakash
**Son:** Karthik
**Daughter-in-law:** Samaya & Grandchildren

Government of Karnataka
**DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND SPORTS**
State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru - 560001.
Tel : 080-22215601, 22211246, Fax: 080 22215602

No: DYES/SW/ SSC/02/2026-27 Dated: 06.05.2026

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**
(Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

**Subject:-** The Deputy Director (Admin), Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru-560001, KARNATAKA INDIA invites Tender for Operation and Maintenance of Sport Science Center at Mysore with all Necessary Human resource.

**Particulars :** Operation and Maintenance of Sport Science Center at Mysore with all Necessary Human resource. EMD : **Rs 1,00,000/-. a)** Last Date and Time for Submission of Tender Documents through E- Procurement Portal: **Dt. 22/05/2026:time 17.00Hrs. b)** Opening of Pre-Qualification Offers: **Dt. 23/05/2026: time 17.10 Hrs. c)** Opening of Commercial Offers: **Will be intimated**

The Tender shall be submitted through e-Procurement Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Vendors need to register in the e-Procurement Portal to submit their bids online. The tender document can be viewed free of cost from the e-Procurement Portal.

Additional information may be obtained during office hours at the above mentioned Address.

Sd/-
Deputy Director (Welfare)
Department of Youth Empowerment and sports

DIPR/CP/620/Zen/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
**ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF TAMILNADU LIMITED**
**ANGADI DIVISION**
9th Floor, Sigapi Aachi Building, 18/3, Rukmani Lakshmipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008. www.elcot.tn.gov.in | +91 44 2855 6120 | tenders@elcotangadi.in

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

In continuation of Notice Inviting Tender, Dated: 07.03.2026, ELCOT Angadi Division invites **second call** for "Rate Contract Tender for supply, installation and commissioning of the following items through ELCOT Angadi e-Commerce portal".

| Sl. No. | Description | Last date for submission of e-bids |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | **Tender No. E-ANGADI-RC-IT02-2026-008** Printers | 03.06.2026, 03.00 PM |
| 2. | **Tender No. E-ANGADI-RC-IT02-2026-009** Laptop & Desktop Computers | 04.06.2026, 03.00 PM |

For complete details, please visit **www.tntenders.gov.in.** For queries: **tenders@elcotangadi.in.**

DIPR/1877/Tender/2026 GENERAL MANAGER (PROCUREMENT)

**KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED**
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL MRBCC Division No. 5 Ron-582209
Phone No. : 08381-267247 Email id : knnldiv5@gmail.com

No:KNNL/MRBC/PB/Tender /2026-27/115 Date : 12.05.2026

**BRIEF SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION - 2nd Call**
(Through K.P.P Portal only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer, KNNL MRBCC Div No:05 Ron, the under under-signed invites Retender on percentage basis from Qualified Contractors. The Tenderers are required to upload in Two cover both Technical bid and Financial bid, Technical bid should contain the documents as mentioned in Detailed Notification and Financial bid of those bidders who have paid the requisite EMD & fulfill the conditions contained in para1.1 will be opened. Table showing the details of work put to tender is as under;

**STATEMENT SHOWING THE DETAILS OF THE WORK PUT TO E-TENDERING**

| Sl No | Name of Work | Approximate amount put to tender (In Rs.) (Exluding GST) | EMD Amount (In Rs.) | Stipulated period for Completion | Class of Contractors |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1) | Earthwork and lining for remodeling of Distributary-56B of Malaprabha Right Bank Canal ch:5.00-9.00 km including structures. (KNNL/2025-26/CN/WORK_INDENT4235/CALL-2) | **3,49,56,634.75** | **5,25,000.00** | **9** Months (Including monsoon) | KPWD Class-II & Above |
| 2) | Earthwork and lining for remodeling of Itagi Distributary of Malaprabha Right Bank Canal ch:12.00-15.00 km including structures. (KNNL/2025-26/CN/WORK_INDENT4241/CALL-2) | **3,07,95,078.23** | **4,62,000.00** | **9** Months (Including monsoon) | KPWD Class-II & Above |
| 3) | Earthwork and lining for remodeling of Itagi Distributary of Malaprabha Right Bank Canal ch:15.00-17.00 km including structures. (KNNL/2025-26/CN/WORK_INDENT4242/CALL-2) | **2,13,96,707.54** | **3,21,000.00** | **6** Months (Including monsoon) | KPWD Class-II & Above |

**Issue and submission of E-tender documents :**
(1) The bidders can access and download blank tender document and submit their bids through KPPP PORTAL from **13.05.2026** to **01.06.2026** in the KPPP.karnataka.gov.in website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in (2) The Pre_bid meeting will be held on **18.05.2026** at 11.00 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL MRBCC Division No.05 Ron The queries if any are to be sent on or before **21.05.2026** till 5.30 PM by the intending bidders through e-mail to the Executive Engineer (the e-mail id for sending queries is knnldiv5@gmail.com) (3) Last Date for Submission of completed e tendering documents is **01.06.2026** up to 4.30 PM. (4) First Electronic Document (Technical BID) will be opened on **02.06.2026** at 05.30 PM. (5) Second Electronic Document (Financial BID) will be opened on **10.06.2026** at 11.00 AM or after approval of technical bid in the Presence of the Bidders who wish to participate in the office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, MRBCC Division No.05 Ron

Further information about electronic tendering can be had from http;//KPPP.Karnataka.gov.in/ lines.seam and can be had from the undersigned during office hours.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer**
**KNNL, MRBCC Division, No-5, Ron**

DIPR/Gadag/KSMCA/61/2026-27

## INBRIEF

### Union Minister's son seeks pre-arrest bail in POCSO case

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar's son Bandi Sai Bageerath moved the Telangana High Court seeking anticipatory bail in a POCSO case registered against him following allegations of sexual harassment of a 17-year-old girl. Since the court is on summer vacation, the bail petition filed by him is likely to be heard by the Vacation Bench on Thursday. The BRS have been staging protests (in photograph) seeking the arrest of Mr. Bageerath.

### Swift action contains fire at A.P. government hospital lab

A major fire accident was narrowly averted at the Government General Hospital in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, after a suspected short circuit triggered a fire on Tuesday. Swift action by hospital staff and the automatic sprinkler system prevented a potentially serious disaster. GGH Superintendent Dr. S.S.V. Ramana told *The Hindu* that smoke was noticed emanating from a locked lab, prompting immediate intervention by hospital staff. The fire damaged a portion of the ceiling inside the lab.

### Rabies confirmed in stray dog that attacked child in Kerala

A stray dog that entered a house and bit a three-year-old girl near Omalloor in Kerala has tested positive for rabies. The virus was confirmed in tests conducted at an Animal Husbandry department laboratory. In the animal attack reported on Monday, the child sustained bite injuries on her eyes and other parts of her body. Two people were also injured. Residents killed the dog after noticing rabies symptoms. The child and other victims are under treatment.

# IUML growing restive over delay in naming Kerala CM

Party meeting at Panakkad may witness strong emotions unless Chief Minister is chosen by today, IUML leadership believes the party's contribution to the UDF's victory is being overlooked

**Abdul Latheef Naha**
MALAPPURAM

The Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), the second-largest constituent of the United Democratic Front (UDF) and a key force behind the front's landslide victory in the April 9 Kerala Assembly election, finds itself in a Catch-22 situation over the delay in finalising the Chief Minister.

Though the IUML leadership has remained cautious and largely silent on the Congress' internal tussle over the top post, discontent is steadily growing within the party. The perceived casual attitude of some Congress leaders has reportedly irked sections of the IUML leadership.

A leadership meeting of the IUML, scheduled for Wednesday at State president Syed Sadikali Shihab Thangal's house at Panakkad, is expected to witness strong sentiments unless the Congress resolves the uncertainty by then.

"As a major UDF partner, we have already conveyed our preference when consulted on the Chief Minister selection. The decision rests with the Congress, and we will abide by it. But this delay has taken away the satisfaction of our victory," said former IUML State general secretary K.P.A. Majeed.

The IUML leadership believes the party's contribution to the UDF's victory is being overlooked. Beyond helping the front sweep all 16 Assembly seats in Malappuram district, the IUML played a decisive role in the victories of Congress candidates in Thrikkaripur, Thavanur, Ponnani, Palakkad, and Thrithala.

V.D. Satheesan, K.C. Venugopal and Ramesh Chennithala after a meeting with Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday. ANI

### Cong. indecision a mockery of democracy: LDF

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**
The Congress party, through its interminable delay in announcing the next Chief Minister, despite the huge mandate it received from the people, is making a mockery of democracy, Left Democratic Front (LDF) convener T.P. Ramakrishnan said.

# Vijay orders closure of 717 Tasmac shops

**The Hindu Bureau**
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay has ordered the closure of 717 Tasmac shops, located within 500 metres of educational institutions and places of worship, within two weeks.

An official release said that of these 717 shops, 276 are located within 500 m of places of worship, 186 near educational institutions, and 255 near bus termini. There is a long-standing demand, especially from women and a few political parties, that all liquor shops be closed.

The closure of over 700 liquor shops is being viewed as a social reform measure. But for over 3,500 Tasmac workers employed in these outlets, the pressing concern now is where they would be relocated.

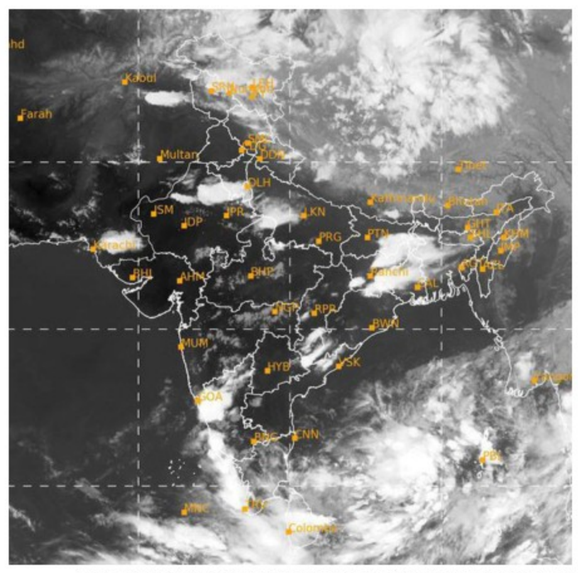
"Over 3,500 staff will be affected in this process. They include supervisors, salesmen and assistant salesmen. It would be beneficial if these employees are accommodated in government departments where vacancies exist, instead of being transferred to nearby shops," said T. Dhanasekaran, general secretary of the Tamil Nadu Tasmac Employees Association, affiliated to All India Trade Union Congress.

A Tasmac worker from the Chennai region said that during previous shop closures, employees were usually transferred to nearby outlets. However, he noted that such relocations often result in overcrowding.

According to sources, 99 Tasmac shops are set to be closed in Chennai region, 173 in Coimbatore zone, and 281 in the Madurai belt. Around 80 shops in the Salem region and 84 in the Tiruchi zone are also expected to shut down.

## WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday




TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

**Forecast for Wednesday:** Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Lakshadweep

| CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN | CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agartala | — | 33.4 | 23.1 | Kozhikode | 9 | 36.3 | 25.3 |
| Ahmedabad | — | 44.4 | 29.4 | Kurnool | — | 41.2 | 28.0 |
| Aizawl | 3 | 31.2 | 16.6 | Lucknow | — | 37.1 | 26.8 |
| Allahabad | — | 42.0 | 27.0 | Madurai | 0.5 | 34.0 | 27.1 |
| Bengaluru | — | 34.4 | 23.4 | Mangaluru | 3 | 34.8 | 25.1 |
| Bhopal | — | 42.6 | 25.6 | Mumbai | — | 34.4 | 27.0 |
| Bhubaneswar | — | 37.0 | 25.6 | Mysuru | — | 34.8 | 22.0 |
| Chandigarh | 4.2 | 34.6 | 22.8 | New Delhi | — | 39.0 | 27.6 |
| Chennai | — | 35.2 | 27.2 | Patna | — | 34.7 | 27.5 |
| Coimbatore | — | 37.2 | 21.4 | Port Blair | 27 | 31.6 | 24.8 |
| Dehradun | 0.8 | 31.4 | 21.5 | Puducherry | — | 33.5 | 26.0 |
| Gangtok | — | 20.8 | 15.2 | Pune | — | 43.2 | 27.0 |
| Goa | — | 36.0 | 28.0 | Raipur | — | 41.0 | 28.1 |
| Guwahati | 8 | 30.6 | 22.2 | Ranchi | 46 | 32.3 | 19.0 |
| Hubballi | — | 37.0 | 24.0 | Shillong | 12 | 22.2 | 12.4 |
| Hyderabad | — | 39.4 | 26.4 | Shimla | — | 27.5 | 17.5 |
| Imphal | 2 | 29.2 | 17.5 | Srinagar | 2 | 22.5 | 12.5 |
| Jaipur | — | 43.2 | 29.1 | Thiruvananthapuram | — | 34.1 | 27.3 |
| Kochi | 16 | 32.4 | 25.4 | Tiruchi | — | 35.7 | 27.0 |
| Kohima | — | 23.0 | 15.0 | Vijayawada | — | 37.0 | 28.0 |
| Kolkata | 0.1 | 35.2 | 26.0 | Visakhapatnam | — | 34.2 | 28.0 |

*(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)*

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing**

| CITIES | $SO_2$ | $NO_2$ | CO | PM2.5 | PM10 | CODE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ahmedabad | 9 | 31 | .92 | 72 | 128 | |
| Bengaluru | 6 | 18 | .34 | 97 | 122 | |
| Chennai | 6 | 10 | — | 37 | 380 | |
| Delhi | .45 | 9 | .69 | 276 | 191 | |
| Hyderabad | .14 | 17 | .25 | 70 | 90 | |
| Kolkata | .14 | 25 | .15 | 50 | 53 | |
| Lucknow | .13 | .44 | .29 | 148 | 112 | |
| Mumbai | 2 | 17 | .51 | 37 | 112 | |
| Pune | — | 26 | 110 | 41 | 74 | |
| Visakhapatnam | 5 | 14 | .15 | 16 | 32 | |

**Yesterday**
In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 219 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 13

**Air Quality Code:** Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

**$SO_2$:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

**$NO_2$:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

**CO:** Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

**PM2.5 & PM10:** Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease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### PERSONAL

**CHANGE OF NAME**

**I, FATHIMA** Bl w/o Yaseen Sab r/o Ward No 17 Chowdareddypalya Chintamani Taluk Chikkaballapur Dist Karnataka 563125 Have change my Name to Famida

**I, Baishali** Mitra, D/o Subrata Mitra, residing at 7/H, Gopal Doctor Road, Khidderpore, PS:Watgunge, Kolkata 700023, have changed my name to AYESHA KHAN vide affidavit dated 23/06/2025. Henceforth, I shall be known as AYESHA KHAN for all purposes.

**I, TEJASWINI.M.V,** W/o Srikanth. B.G, R/at No.11, Latha Nilaya, 4th Cross Road, Javaregowda Nagara, Basavaraja Badavane, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bengaluru-560098 have changed my name from Tejaswini.M.V. to Tejaswini vide affidavit dated 12-05-2026 sworn before Notary Gangaraju.B.N, B'luru

**I, ZAHOOR** Ahamed Althaf S/o Althaf Ahamed residing No. 1-116/E Shifa Manzil Subhash Nagara Marpady Village Moodabidre Mangaluru City-574227 Karnataka have assumed my name as Zahoor Ahamed and surname as Althaf vide affidavit 12-05-2026 before Meer Hassan Notary Bengaluru.

**I, SHAZA** Zaheer Ali W/o Zahoor Ahamed Althaf residing at Sai Radha Residency A Wing, Flat No.403, Behind Kidiyoor Hotel, Udupi-576101 Karnataka have assumed my name as Shaza Zaheer and surname as Ali Vide affidavit dated 12-05-2026 before Meer Hassan Notary Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**

**I, ABHIRAM S PANICKER,** aged about 21 years, S/o of Mr. Sali P.S. Permanently R/at Sreerangam, Ambady, NLR7, New lane do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **ABHIRAM S PANICKER** and **ABHIRAM S** all are one and the same and belongs to me only, in future for all purposes I continue my name as **ABHIRAM S PANICKER** vide affidavit dated 12-05-2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **Smt. VATSALA** at Bangalore.

### BUSINESS OFFERS

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

1. Mrs. Sabiha Begum, wife of late Mohammed Ansar, and heirs of mohammed Ansar, 2. Mr. Mohammed Zahid Pasha, 3. Mrs. Azra Begum, 4. Mr. Mohammed Afrid Pasha, All are residing at No. 45, 3rd floor, lst main road, behind IBM NG Palya, Bangalore-29. The aforesaid plaintiffs instituted suit for relief of declaration of their title and declare the documents which forged by Mrs. Sahida Begum wife of Late Mohammed Anwar and others in respect of S.No. 266 D. hec 0.81.0 Ass 82.75 and S.No. 240/1 W.hec 0.08.0 Ass 77.50 and S.No. 266/2 D. hec 0.40.50 Ass 41.37 and S.No. 240/1 W. hec 0.04.0 Ass 38.75 and S.No. 115/2c D.hec 0.38.0 Ass 0.53 and 266/2 Acre 1.76 Ass 10.97 and S.No. 116/1B D. hec 0.44.0 Ass 0.60 which all situated at Choodachandram Village, Denkanikottai Taluk and SRO, Krishnagiri District and Thalli Village, Natham S.No. 124/1A land and tiled house, properties before the Hon'ble Principal District Court Krishnagiri in OS.No. 284 of 2026 and the same is pending. In the meantime plaintiffs learnt that defendants are trying to alienate and make encumbrances over the property. It is absolutely contrary to law. If so to do, it will not affect rights of plaintiffs. Hence plaintiffs hereby notify to the General public to avoid getting cheated. If anybody violates so, they would be prosecuted and penalized suitably.

P.EZHILARASU, B.A., LL.B
Advocate,
No.4/580-1, Railway Station Road
Dharmapuri-636701
Cell- 9488661143

### SITUATION VACANT

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COMPANY SECRETARY & SENIOR MARKETING CONSULTANT
Supplyco invites applications to various posts on contract basis. Please visit the website **(www.cmd.kerala.gov.in)** for more details. The link for application will be opened from 13.05.2026 (10 AM). Interested candidates may apply online on or before **26.05.2026 (5 PM).**

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Government of India
**MINISTRY OF POWER**
**Vacancy for the Post of Whole-Time Members, namely Member (Irrigation) and Member (Power) in Bhakra Beas Management Board**
It is proposed to fill up the posts of Whole-Time Members, namely Member (Irrigation) and Member (Power), Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB), a statutory organization under provision contained in Section 79 of Punjab Reorganization Act, 1966.
2. The detailed Vacancy Circular may be seen at the website of Ministry of Power i.e. ***www.powermin.nic.in***.
3. Applications of suitable candidates having qualification and experience for the aforementioned posts may be forwarded so as to reach the Ministry of Power latest by 03rd June, 2026, addressed to the Section Officer (BBMB), Ministry of Power, Room No. 26, Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi – 110001. Applications received after the last date are liable to be rejected.
262-PR-Bd. Sectt.-6 FOR YOUR BETTER TOMORROW SAVE ENERGY TODAY

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public are hereby notified that on behalf of our Client, we are scrutinizing the right, title and interest of: (i) **Mr. Shivaswamy**; (ii) **Mr. Basavaraju**; (iii) **Mr. Narayanaswamy**; (iv) **Mr. Harikrishna**; and (v) **Mr. Mallesh** (referred to herein as the "**Owners**"), to the immovable property more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder and referred to herein as the "**Schedule Property**". The Owners have represented that they are currently the joint and absolute owners of the Schedule Property, having unrestricted rights of alienation over the same. The Owners have further represented that the Schedule Property is free from all encumbrances, charges, lien, litigation and/ or any third-party rights/ claims of any nature whatsoever.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that if any person/s, entity, company, firm or institution has any claims or asserts any right, title or interest by way of sale, lease, license, tenancy, mortgage, charge, lien, easement, agency, license, gift, inheritance, share, possession, assignment, right of prescription or pre-emption or under any agreement or other disposition or under any suit, decree, injunction order or attachment or award passed by any court or authority, litigation, *lis-pendens*, decree or order of any adjudicating authority, exchange, partition, power of attorney, will, bequest, tenancy, development rights, family arrangement/ settlement, allotment, acquisition, requisition, FAR/ FSI, beneficial right or interest under any trust, claim, demand or any other interest of whatsoever nature in or upon the Schedule Property or any part thereof, the same may be brought to the notice of the undersigned, in writing, together with all details and documents in support of such claim, within **15 (fifteen) days** from the date of this Notice, failing which it shall be conclusively presumed and deemed that the Owners have a clear and marketable title to the Schedule Property and that none else has any right, title, interest or claim whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property; and our Client would be at liberty to proceed to enter into and complete the intended transaction in respect of the Schedule Property. Any objections and/ or claims received after the expiry of the notice period mentioned above shall neither be entertained nor be binding on our Client.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

All that piece and parcel of immovable property being agricultural land measuring an extent of **1 Acre 14 Guntas**, comprised in Survey No. **16/3B**, situated at **Kothanuru Village**, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, and bounded as follows:

**On the East** : Property bearing Survey No. 37/2;
**On the West** : Road and Property bearing Survey No. 16/2;
**On the North** : BDA Road; and
**On the South** : Property bearing Survey No. 30.

**C.R. Muralidharan**, Partner
**Vinuth Gowda**, Partner
**DUA ASSOCIATES**
Advocates & Solicitors
130/1, 2nd Floor, Ulsoor Road,
Bengaluru – 560 042.
Phone: 91-80-25588799/ 25589909
E-mail: murali@duaassociates.com/ vinuth@duaassociates.com

Place: Bengaluru
Dated: May 13th, 2026

**BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION**
Central Office: Stores & Purchase Department K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560 027
No: BMTC/CO/COSP/TENDER/05/2026-27 Date: 12.05.2026
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**
B.M.T.C invites tender for procurement of the following Goods & Services through KPP Portal:

| Sl. No. | Tender No. | Description | Last Date for Bid Submission in KPPP |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | **Short-Term Tender** | |
| 1 | BMTC/2026-27/IND0293 | Procurement of ETM Thermal Paper Rolls. | 20.05.2026 at 17:00 hrs. |
| | | **Corrigendum: The last date & time for submission of following tender is extended as under.** | |
| 2 | BMTC/2026-27/IND0289 | Procurement of PCTR and Allied Items | 25.05.2026 at 14:30 hrs. |

The above mentioned tender details can be obtained from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Further, any addendum/corrigendum in respect of change in calendar of events, specification, other tender terms and conditions etc. will be uploaded /published through KPP Portal only.
**Note:** Interested Bidders need to register in the KPP Portal. For further information visit BMTC Central Office or Log on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
**Sd/- CONTROLLER OF STORES & PURCHASES**
**(Tender Inviting Authority)**

Government of Karanataka
**Sri Jayachamarajendra Taluk Hospital, Thirthahalli, Shivamogga (D)**
e-mail: mojchospitalthirthahalli@gmail.com
Mobile No.: 9035573294
No.: JCTH/OUT SUR/465/2025-26 Date: 25.03.2026
**"Short-Term Tender – 2nd Call regarding services of Group 'D', Non-clinical Services and Computer Operators under A.B. – A.R.K. Scheme on Outsource Basis "**
Tender is invited through e-procurement from eligible firms for availing services of Group 'D', Non-clinical personnel and Computer Operators under A.B. – A.R.K. Scheme on outsource basis to Sri Jayachamarajendra Taluk Hospital, Thirthahalli, Shivamogga (D) for the year 2026-27 and interested Tenderers can login to Department website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 04.05.2026 and submit Tender through e-portal in two cover system. Last date for uploading the Tender: 16.05.2026 up to 4.30 PM. Further information can be availed in e-portal.
**Sd/- Chief Medical Officer, Sri Jayachamarajendra Taluk Hospital, Thirthahalli.**
DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/44/05/213

**Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka**
**4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru 560041**
**registrar@rguhs.ac.in Tel : +91-80-29601928**
No. RGUHSB/PROC/GEN/144/2025-(116447) Date: 11/05/2026
**E- TENDER NOTIFICATION (RFP)**
The Registrar Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences invites tender for PROCUREMENT OF I-PADS TO RGUHS. More details on the Service are provided in the attached Terms of Reference.
**Tender No. RGUHSK/2026-27/IND0026/CALL-2.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Tender document available for download | 11-05-2026, 16:39 Hrs. |
| 2 | Last date for Receipt of Tender | 22-05-2026, 17:30 Hrs. |
| 3 | Opening of Technical Bid | 25-05-2026, 11:30 Hrs. |
| 4 | Opening of Financial Bid | 26-05-2026, 11:30 Hrs. |
| 5 | Place of Opening of Tender | Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bengaluru |

More details can be fetched from website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
**Sd/- Registrar**
DIPR/CP/611/AKAR/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್
**ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಕಚೇರಿ,**
**ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ, ನೆಹರೂ ಮೈದಾನ ರಸ್ತೆ,**
**ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು – 575001.**
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 0824-2423672. Email ID: dhodkannada2019@gmail.com
ಸಂ: ಎಸ್‌ಯುಪಿ/64/2025–26/2ನೇ ಕರೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12–05–2026.
**ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ)**
ವಿಷಯ: 2026–27 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ 159 ಗ್ರೂಪ್ ಡಿ , 15 ವಾಹನ ಚಾಲಕರು, 1 ಶುಶ್ರೂಷಕಿ, 1 ಗಣಕಯಂತ್ರ ಸಹಾಯಕರ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಹೊರಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಎರಡು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲ್ಪಡೆಯುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.
ವಿಷಯ: (1) ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12–05–2026ರಿಂದ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** ನಲ್ಲಿ (2) ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 4,45,00,000/– (3) ಪ್ರೀ–ಬಿಡ್ ಸಭೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18–05–2026 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 03.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (4) ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19–05–2026 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 04.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (5) ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜನ್ನು (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲ ಮುಖಾಂತರ) ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26–05–2026 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 05.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (6) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ತೆರೆಯುವ ವೇಳೆ ಮತ್ತು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27–05–2026 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 05.15 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
(7) ಪಡೆಯಲು ಬಯಸಿರುವ ಸೇವೆಗಳ ವಿವರ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | ಗ್ರೂಪ್ ಡಿ | 159 |
| 2. | ವಾಹನ ಚಾಲಕರು | 15 |
| 3. | ಶುಶ್ರೂಷಕಿ | 1 |
| 4. | ಗಣಕಯಂತ್ರ ಸಹಾಯಕ | 1 |

(8) ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 0824–2423672 (9) ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ರೂ. 6,68,000/–
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DIPR/DK/KSMCA/189/26-29 dt.12.05.2026

**KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED**
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office Of The Executive Engineer, K.N.N.L., R&R Divn.
Athani - 591 304. Tq: Athani. Dist: Belgaum.
No. : E.E./K.N.N.L./R&R/P.B./TND/BLIS/FIC/2026-27/190
Date : 08-05-2026
**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION**
(Through E-Procurement only)
Electronic Percentage Tender through KPP Platform KW-4 Basis in Two Cover System is invited by the **Executive Engineer KNNL R & R Division, Atahni** on behalf of the **Managing Director, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited, 4th Floor, Coffee Board Building No. : 1) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore - 01 for the Work of 1) KPP I. NO - 4390, 2) KPP I.NO - 4391, 3) KPP I.NO - 4392, 4) KPP I.NO - 4393, 5) KPP I.NO - 4394, 6)KPP I.NO - 546 Call-2.**
**1) The Blank Tender Documents can be Obtained and Uploaded through KPPP between : 13-05-2026 @ 10.30 a.m. to 20-05-2026 upto 4.00 p.m. 2) Last Date for Tender Queries : 18-05-2026 upto 4.00 p.m. 3) Pre Bid Meeting will be held in the Office of the EE R&R Division, Athani : 16-05-2026 at 11.00 a.m. 4) Last Date for Submission : 20-05-2026 upto 4.00 p.m. 5) Opening of Technical Bid on : 22-05-2026 @ 11.00 a.m. 6) Opening of Financial Bid on : 25-05-2026 @ 11.00 a.m.**
**Stipulated Period Sl. No. 01 to 06 is 06 Months Including Mansoon, 8) Amount Put to Tender (Excl. GST). for 1) Rs. 415.93, Lakhs, 2) Rs. 328.87 Lakhs, 3) 391.98 Lakhs, 4) Rs. 211.55 Lakhs, 5) 279.85 Lakhs, 6) Rs. 403.09 Lakhs & 9) Class of Contractor KPWD Class-II and above Registered Contractors.**
Any information required in this regard can be had from the E-procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and Office of the **Executive Engineer, K.N.N.L., R&R Division, Athani** and this Office **Telephone No. : 08289 - 285031** during office hours.
**Sd/- Executive Engineer, K.N.N.L., R&R Division, Athani.**
DIPR/Belagavi/233/Manipal/2026-27

## Split wide open

### The AIADMK seems set on the path of self-destruction

It is no surprise that the AIADMK, the principal Opposition party in the previous Tamil Nadu Assembly, is heading towards a split, having faced a second successive setback in the recent Assembly election, apart from several defeats in parliamentary elections. As of now, the 47 MLAs from the Dravidian major are divided over their support for the leadership of General Secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami, who was until recently the Leader of Opposition. On Monday, the two groups made written submissions to Pro-tem Speaker M.V. Karuppiah regarding their claims. Though there is no clarity on the strength of the two factions, the dissident group, led by former Ministers C.Ve. Shanmugam and S.P. Velumani, appears to enjoy the support of more legislators. This group has announced its decision to support the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) government; Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay, by visiting the office of Mr. Shanmugam and meeting him and his colleagues on Tuesday, has indicated where his sympathies lie. This appears to be part of Mr. Vijay's political outreach, as he has met DMK chief M.K. Stalin and several other leaders in the past two days. It carries political significance, as the Chief Minister is due to move a trust vote in the House on Wednesday.

Unlike previous occasions when the AIADMK publicly announced the election of its legislature party leader and other functionaries, there has been no official announcement this time. However, the Palaniswami camp claims that at a May 9 meeting, all 47 legislators gave written consent to the effect that the former Chief Minister is the AIADMK legislature party's leader. It also cites the Supreme Court verdict in the Shiv Sena case (May 2023), which held that "the political party, and not the legislature party, appoints the Whip and the Leader in the House". As Mr. Palaniswami is also the general secretary, his supporters argue that there is no need to take cognisance of the other faction's office-bearer announcements, given that he has appointed his nominee as the legislature party whip. The Palaniswami group also appears to be preparing to move the Speaker for disqualification of rebel legislators under paragraph 2(1)(b) of the 1985 anti-defection law, in case the dissidents violate the whip by voting against the government. One option for the Shanmugam-Velumani faction is to merge with the TVK if it secures the support of 32 legislators, similar to how seven AAP MPs in the Rajya Sabha (out of a total of 10 MPs) recently quit and merged with the BJP – which was approved by the Vice President and the Rajya Sabha Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan. In the case of the AIADMK, Assembly Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar may soon have to draw on his experience and legal advice to assess the merits of the two groups' claims. Whatever he decides, the churn in Tamil Nadu politics is likely to continue for some time.

## Data and justice

### As courts adopt AI, care must be taken on the potential for abuse

In the latest step in a long-standing effort to digitise the judiciary, Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant announced two initiatives from the Bench, called 'One Case, One Data' (OCOD), a unified judicial data platform, and 'Su-Sahayak', an AI-powered chatbot on the Supreme Court of India website. OCOD promises a unified digital trail for a dispute as it moves through various courts, linkages between court records and litigant actions (such as appeals), easier access to various documents, lower need for manual verification, reciprocal access to High Courts and other courts, and more accurate judicial statistics. It is notable considering the wide variation in software practices and records quality across India's thousands of district and subordinate courts. If the programme succeeds, standardised data could also allow administrators to determine where cases are held up and ease procedural bottlenecks, and improve data-based decision-making overall. 'Su-Sahayak' has been integrated into the Court website's front-end to help users navigate case status, cause lists, orders and judgments, e-services, and frequently asked questions. As with any major state-backed technology rollout in India, questions about interoperability, integrity of legacy records, restricting access to private information, and staff skilling remain. By aspiring to a centralised digital fingerprint for each case, OCOD also bears the risk of misuse.

While the CJI said that these new tools will improve "access to justice", their introduction risks deepening the digital divide. OCOD may require lawyers to maintain digital scanners, cloud backup options, and updated software. Metropolitan corporate firms can easily absorb these costs but independent practitioners in the district and taluka levels will lack the capital. The system may also introduce digital middlemen to help litigants who cannot navigate the e-filing portal, potentially creating a new layer of unregulated costs. While the government has launched assistants with voice-first capabilities, such as Jan Sahayak, 'Su-Sahayak' is primarily text-based and could exclude people who are not comfortable typing or navigating complex website menus. The state and the judiciary must ensure that the AI model is not biased against marginalised communities who were historically disproportionately arrested or denied bail. India's courts have generally been more comfortable with AI for assistance than for substantive reasoning. 'Su-Sahayak' follows SUVAS, to translate judgments, and SUPACE, which processes facts and legal precedents. The line must continue to hold as the judiciary adopts more powerful tools that have already tempted practitioners in other domains to abuse them.

# Tamil Nadu's political transition, growth story faultlines

**Kalaiyarasan A.**

Associate Professor, Madras Institute of Development Studies

In Tamil Nadu, the electoral triumph of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) under the leadership of C. Joseph Vijay is seen as something that would lead to a break from the 'Dravidian Model of development'. But only time will tell if Mr. Vijay's victory is only an extension of Dravidian politics. Going by the TVK's election manifesto, there is scope for continuity, not a break, from extant economic policy. The party's victory comes at a time when Tamil Nadu is faced with a series of challenges. While some are internal, emerging from chinks in the State's relatively better development outcomes and in its political trajectory, others have been aggravated by external challenges such as the shifts in federal relations and the changes in the global economic order.

Successive Dravidian parties have built an economy that is inclusive, productive, and broad-based. The State has shown that economic growth can go together with social development: simultaneous interventions in growth drivers (infrastructure such as power and transport) alongside investments in affordable health and education. It may not be an exaggeration to say that, even without parental support, the probability of a child surviving, getting fully immunised, being fed nutritious food, getting into school, entering college, and progressing to university is far higher in Tamil Nadu than in many other States in India (perhaps, Kerala is the other).

But now, "there is trouble in paradise". New faultlines have emerged in the Dravidian model. Historically, Tamil Nadu's industrial story has rested on a simple idea: using state policy to stitch together the growth of territorially rooted micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and large electronics and manufacturing firms, so that learning, jobs, and value creation are spread across regions within the State. That model has weakened with the rise in precarity of jobs and sluggish wage growth. The growth – and indeed there has continued to be growth – has not generated jobs or real wage growth. Ex-post welfare transfers have not cut it either. Not to mention, the increased welfare transfers have come at the expense of fiscal prudence.

**Jobs and growth**

Tamil Nadu is a global manufacturing hub and its industrial policy, irrespective of the political regime, has remained consistent and non-contradictory. It has, therefore, attracted large global investments such as Hyundai, Ford and Nokia in the past, and Foxconn which manufactures Apple iPhones. However, there has been a gap between the investment promised and actualised. As per Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy Pvt. Ltd (CMIE) data, during 2021-25, announced investments rose to ₹6.80 lakh crore, but completed investments stood lower at ₹1.57 lakh crore. The completion ratio stands at 23.09%, which is lower than before. Even these investments did not generate commensurate jobs. The employment elasticity of new jobs is much lower now than in previous regimes: 0.01 per unit of promised capital, less than one job per crore of investment. The latest Annual Survey of Industries tells us that the ratio of jobs created per unit of capital investment, number of workers to gross capital formation, was 0.58 for Tamil Nadu, 0.34 for Gujarat, and 0.33 for Maharashtra. Historically, Tamil Nadu's uniqueness lies in the pursuit of development that delicately balances the needs of capital with a requisite degree of safeguards for workers. As a result, even when the wage share in national income has been falling across the world due to increases in capital intensity, Tamil Nadu has been able to protect its workers, at least relatively.

The State's development model is under pressure from changing realities, which the new Chief Minister needs to address

The wage levels in Tamil Nadu were higher because of lower levels of contractualisation and the better bargaining strength of labour. Relative to its own past, the State is now witnessing rising contractualisation, declining wage shares, and weakening employment elasticity as capital intensity increases. MSMEs are losing ground and many traditional, labour-intensive clusters face a survival crisis. They are yet to recover fully from successive shocks of demonetisation (2016), Goods and Services Tax (2017) and COVID-19 (2020). U.S. President Donald Trump's tariffs have compounded the crisis. The new factories that have come in have weak linkages with the existing small firms. On the other hand, the persisting skill gap in labour market has further limited the ability to generate jobs, adopt new technologies and absorb new entrants.

**Aspirations versus achievement**

The Dravidian model that generated aspirations among youth has brought new troubles. Its emphasis on education as the route to self-respect translated into broad-based aspirations for success which implied dignity and self-respect. These are values that the Dravidian movement has long stood by. Tamil Nadu is one of the few Indian States that democratised higher education and addressed elite bias. Its gross enrolment ratio (GER) in higher education is 51%, which means that 51% of all youth in the age group of 18-23 years are engaged in some form of higher education, which is twice the national average of 27.1% and comparable to most European countries. It is also inclusive, as the GER of Scheduled Caste (SC) men and women stands at 38.8% and 40.4%, respectively, much higher than that of upper-caste youth in many States.

But since education expanded without improvements in quality, its returns have declined, weakening the prospect of mobility and opening new pathways for inequality. With education being decoupled from the job market, the relative position of the first-generation graduate has become increasingly fragile when compared to those with generational wealth. Double-digit growth does not mean anything to new entrants if it does not generate jobs with commensurate wages. Educated youth work as delivery agents and gig workers who are exploited by platform companies. A feeling of betrayal has set in. The welfare that follows is not enough and cannot compensate for the loss of dignity that is endured through joblessness or informality. The new welfarism of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam party has ensured a vast social and economic safety net for the underprivileged, but these welfare measures did not resonate with first-time voters in 2026. In the absence of meaningful employment, the youth perceive these as measures that take away dignity.

**New policies, delivering dignity**

No doubt, Tamil Nadu still does better in most indicators *vis-à-vis* other States. For youth, this is a given. They have been listening to this narrative their entire lives, but that slogan of success does not resonate with their lives. The Dravidian movement took on the old hierarchy but is blind to the new hierarchy, and their own position within it. Thomas Piketty emphasises that besides political equality, voice, power, and participation, and access to basic goods for everyone, the question of dignity is the most severe form of inequality in our times. Tamil Nadu has achieved some degree of equality in basic health, education, food, and transportation through a more generous welfare state. But it has not delivered dignity. So how does one even do that?

Addressing that requires a reworking of the growth strategy to generate decent jobs, better wages and reforming governance to reduce the gap between the governed and the governing, foster associational life among people, and dismantle new sites of hierarchy. In absence of these measures, even welfare, framed in the language of rights, may not work because the line between legitimate welfare and illegitimate bribe, or money-for-votes, has blurred. This often makes youth resentful or confused about what is an entitlement and whether a cash transfer is a right or a bribe. What is thus required is a new set of economic and social policies attentive to these faultlines.

# Managing coexistence in human-wildlife conflict zones

**Vinaya Kumar H.M.**

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Human-wildlife conflict (HWC) is often framed as a conservation problem. In reality, it is a complex socio-ecological challenge shaped by land use, livelihoods and ecological change. Across continents, interactions between people and wildlife are becoming more frequent and more intense, not because animals are encroaching on human space alone, but because human activity is rapidly transforming natural habitats.

In India, hundreds of people die each year in encounters with elephants, while large numbers of livestock are lost to predators. Similar patterns are reported in parts of Africa, Southeast Asia and Latin America. These conflicts reflect deeper pressures such as habitat fragmentation, agricultural expansion and changing land use. Where biodiversity overlaps with dense human settlement, conflict becomes almost inevitable.

**A reflection of ecological imbalance**

Geographically, the most severe conflicts occur in South and Southeast Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Brazil, India, Indonesia, Kenya and Tanzania face recurring challenges involving elephants, big cats and other large mammals. These species require extensive ranges and seasonal movement corridors. When forests are cleared, roads constructed or farms expanded, these natural pathways are disrupted. Wildlife then adapts, often by moving into agricultural landscapes or peri-urban areas in search of food and shelter.

Importantly, animal behaviour in such contexts is rarely "aggressive" in intent. Crop raiding by elephants or livestock predation by carnivores are adaptive responses to ecological constraints. Monkeys and wild boars exploit easily available food near forest edges, while predators turn to livestock when natural prey declines. These patterns reflect ecological imbalance rather than aberrant animal behaviour.

Global responses to HWC show that coexistence is possible when policy moves beyond reactive measures. In Africa, Botswana and Namibia have implemented community-based natural resource management systems, where local communities share tourism revenues and gain rights over wildlife use. This aligns conservation goals with economic incentives, reducing hostility toward wildlife. In central America in Costa Rica, ecological corridors are integrated into national planning to maintain habitat connectivity. Finland combines real-time wildlife monitoring with rapid compensation systems, reducing both risk and resentment.

The approach should be scientifically informed, socially just, and ecologically sustainable

These approaches share three key features: strong local participation, reliable economic support and the use of ecological data for planning; they treat conflict as a shared management issue rather than a law-and-order problem.

**The complexities in India**

In India, significant efforts have been made to address HWC through compensation schemes, technological interventions and legal frameworks. However, given the scale and complexity of the challenge, there remains scope to further strengthen implementation. Compensation mechanisms, while well-intentioned, can benefit from greater timeliness, enhanced coverage and improved accessibility for marginalised communities. Similarly, measures such as solar fencing and early-warning systems have shown context-specific success, but their effectiveness depends on better coordination and ecological planning.

At the policy level, India's legal framework has played a crucial role in wildlife conservation. Going forward, there is scope to better align these frameworks with the evolving realities of human-wildlife interfaces. As land-use patterns and ecological pressures change, adaptive, locally responsive governance approaches can help strengthen coexistence outcomes.

There is a need to carefully assess the practicality and long-term effectiveness of proposed interventions. Suggestions such as fertility control in wild elephants have occasionally entered public debate; however, experts note that such measures have limited applicability beyond small, intensively managed populations. In the Indian context, where elephants range across vast and fragmented landscapes, the key challenge remains habitat loss, increasing competition for food and water, and growing human-wildlife interface. Therefore, lasting solutions must focus on habitat restoration, ecological connectivity, and community-based conflict mitigation rather than isolated technical fixes.

Evidence from Bhutan and Nepal shows that locally grounded solutions can reduce conflict. Community-managed forests, coordinated grazing and predator-proof livestock enclosures have shown positive results, supported by stable conservation funding mechanisms.

**Focus on education and awareness**

Climate change is likely to intensify HWC by altering resource availability and forcing both humans and wildlife to adapt. This adds urgency to the need for a shift in perspective. Wildlife cannot be treated as an external threat to be controlled, nor can human livelihoods be side-lined in the name of conservation.

The way forward lies in designing landscapes that accommodate both. This includes securing wildlife corridors, improving land-use planning, strengthening compensation systems, and involving communities as active partners in conservation. Education and awareness can also play a role in rebuilding tolerance and understanding.

HWC is not an anomaly. It is a predictable outcome of how we use land and resources. The challenge is not to eliminate conflict entirely, but to manage it in ways that are scientifically informed, socially just and ecologically sustainable. If approached thoughtfully, coexistence is not only possible, but it is also essential for the future of both people and wildlife.

*The views expressed are personal*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**NEET cancelled**

Around 22.79 lakh students appeared for the "common and uniform National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET-UG) for admission to undergraduate medical education in medical institutions across the country". And now, without warning, it stands cancelled. This is not new. Every year, after one of India's most prestigious and high-stakes examinations, the cycle repeats itself: a paper leak, an administrative lapse, or a "technical glitch," and the future of lakhs of children is put on hold. The real question we must ask is this: Are we truly serious about our students' futures? These young students dedicate years, not weeks, to preparing for a single examination. They sacrifice their teenage years attending coaching classes. Their families invest savings, hope, and sacrifice. Then, overnight, a headline declares their effort void. Is our system so fragile?
A cancelled examination is not merely a bureaucratic error. It is a breach of trust. It tells every student that their time is disposable, their anxiety is irrelevant, and their future is negotiable.

**Shikha Chauhan,**
New Delhi

**Austerity appeal**

The Prime Minister's call for austerity is a clear admission of failure, coming only after the strategic suppression of economic data during the election cycle. The ground reality is far removed from the government's propaganda. However, we are now at a juncture where the national interest must supersede political accountability. While we must condemn the government's lack of transparency, the duty to preserve resources for future generations now falls upon us. We should adopt carpooling and fuel conservation not because the "sermon" is flawless, but because the government's failure has left the public as the final line of defence for India's economic future.

**Zaid Daraani,**
Vitla, Mangaluru

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

# How India is governing its water resources

India's water crisis is often described as one of scarcity. Yet the deeper reality is a paradox: the country receives nearly 4,000 billion cubic metres of annual rainfall, but only a fraction of this water is captured, stored or used efficiently, highlighting a deeper institutional challenge. The question confronting policymakers is not merely how much water India has, but how its water is governed. As India works toward the global commitments of the UN (Sustainable Development Goal 6), and the national aspiration of becoming a developed economy by 2047, strengthening the architecture of water governance will be central to sustaining economic growth and social well-being.

**Priyanka Vadrevu**

Independent researcher in water resources management, climate change and disaster risk resilience and National President – Ecological & Economic Resilience Council, WICCI

**Enduring paradox**

India's hydrological arithmetic reveals striking contradictions. The country supports nearly one-fifth of the world's population but has access to only about 4% of global freshwater resources. According to the NITI Aayog Composite Water Management Index, around 600 million people face high to extreme water stress. At the same time, India receives substantial precipitation each year. Hydrological assessments indicate that while total water availability is high, only about 1,100 billion cubic metres are considered usable, due to limitations in storage infrastructure, uneven rainfall distribution and ecological constraints.

The decline in per-capita water availability illustrates this growing stress. In the early years after independence, water availability exceeded 5,000 cubic metres per person annually. Today it has fallen to around 1,400 cubic metres. Groundwater extraction has become the principal coping mechanism. India is now the world's largest groundwater user, accounting for roughly a quarter of global extraction. This dependence has enabled agricultural expansion and rural livelihoods, but it has also resulted in declining water tables across several regions. These realities point to a central conclusion: India's water crisis is as much institutional as it is hydrological.

**On water governance**

India's water governance operates through a complex, multi-level institutional structure involving the Union government, State governments and local bodies. At the national level, the Ministry of Jal Shakti serves as the nodal authority responsible for water resources, drinking water supply and sanitation. There is also the Central Water Commission which focuses primarily on surface water planning, river basin development and flood control, while the Central Ground Water Board assesses groundwater resources and provides scientific inputs for sustainable aquifer management.

Additionally, the NITI Aayog evaluates water governance performance across States through indicators such as the Composite Water Management Index. This benchmarking mechanism has helped introduce accountability and evidence-based policymaking into the water sector. However, India's federal constitutional structure places most water-related responsibilities with the States. Irrigation, water supply and groundwater regulation fall primarily within State jurisdiction. As a result, State irrigation departments, urban water boards and local governments play a decisive role in implementing water policies. This multi-layered system reflects India's federal design but also creates coordination challenges.

To address institutional fragmentation, the Union government has increasingly relied on national missions that align central funding with State-level implementation. One of the most transformative initiatives has been the Jal Jeevan Mission, launched in 2019, to provide tap connections to rural homes. Recognising the scale of the task, the mission has been extended until 2028 to enable States to achieve universal coverage.

Groundwater sustainability is being addressed through the Atal Bhujal Yojana, which promotes participatory aquifer management in water-stressed regions. By encouraging community-based groundwater budgeting and monitoring, the programme attempts to correct the long-standing gap in groundwater regulation. The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana promotes micro-irrigation technologies and improved water management practices. Given that agriculture consumes the majority of India's freshwater resources, improving irrigation efficiency is essential.

Urban water management is addressed through the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation, which aims to expand water supply networks, sewage treatment systems and wastewater reuse in cities. River basin restoration has also gained prominence through initiatives such as the Namami Gange Programme, which combines pollution control, sewage treatment and ecological restoration in the Ganga basin.

**A circular water economy**

India's water governance is moving toward a more integrated, circular approach. Global best practices underscore the value of wastewater reuse, efficient irrigation, and technological innovation. Expanding wastewater recycling in Indian cities can ease pressure on freshwater resources, while better crop choices and irrigation methods can improve agricultural water productivity. India's water future will depend less on how much rain it receives and more on how well it is governed. By aligning governance with scientific knowledge, technological innovation, and participatory approaches, India can transform its water economy from a cycle of scarcity to a framework of sustainability.

Global best practices underscore the value of wastewater reuse, efficient irrigation, and technological innovation

# The challenge to not breach the limit

Karnataka has rearranged its internal reservation quota to fit within the 50% cap

STATE OF PLAY

**Sharath S. Srivatsa**

Public recruitment in Karnataka – stalled for over a year on account of reservation issues – is scheduled to start with a new quota matrix. The Karnataka government, amid pressure from job aspirants, announced the kickstarting of the recruitment process to fill up 56,432 posts. This will be one of the largest recruitments drives by the State in recent years.

However, the new matrix has not been without resentment; it has altered the overall quantum of reservation, and has also changed the internal reservation quota for Scheduled Castes (SCs).

Faced with a slew of cases in the Karnataka High Court on the reservation issue, the State government has attempted to overcome the legal challenge through executive decisions. Among the key decisions is the reversal of the quantum of reservation that had been enhanced to 17% for SCs and 7% for STs through the Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions and of Appointments or Posts in the Services under the State) Act, 2022. The enhanced quota had breached the 50% cap on reservations fixed by the Supreme Court, and cases were filed against it in the High Court. The government has now reversed the quota to 15% from 17% and 3% from 7% to SCs and STs respectively, bringing the overall quota back to the earlier 50%. The OBCs have 32% reservation quota in the State.

The reduction in ST reservation in particular has disappointed the youth among the community seeking public employment, as their opportunities will now shrink. In Karnataka, the ST list has 51 tribes of which the Nayakas remain the dominant community. Their inclusion in the list during the 1990s contributed significantly to the increase in the ST population of the State. The 2022 legislation had provided for 7% reservation, proportionate to their population, but it is now back to 3%.




**Suspect silence**

Curiously, leaders from the community in both the ruling Congress and the Opposition BJP have not said much in public on this issue. A proposed protest rally from Chitradurga to Bengaluru by the BJP to condemn the reduction did not take off, apparently due to pressure from their high command. Though the BJP government legislated enhanced reservations in 2022, legal experts believe that it has to be brought under the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution to get legal protection, a task that is being seen as difficult for the National Democratic Alliance-ruled Centre. States like Tamil Nadu have been able to breach the limit by bringing their reservation matrix under the Ninth Schedule.

Within the Congress, a few Nayaka leaders believe that the party is not doing enough to protect ST interests, and also not attempting to score political points against the BJP by asserting pressure on the Centre. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah – in his list of 18 demands to Prime Minister Modi – sought the inclusion of enhanced reservation under the Ninth Schedule. But many within the party feel that this was not enough.

On the issue of sub classification among the 101 SCs, the State has come up with a new matrix – the fifth such model proposed in one and a half decades, which includes the three proposed just in the last one year. The reduction in the overall reservation to SCs to 15% has not seen much resentment. The Dalit Madiga leaders, who succeeded in stalling the recruitment process till the sub-classification was announced, have not spoken much against the reduction in the overall quantum of reservation.

The new matrix has been arrived at within the 15% cap despite the Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub classification) Act, 2025, receiving the Governor's assent (yet to be notified) for internal reservation within the 17% quota.

However, 49 nomadic tribes and 10 microscopic communities, which come under the SC category, have threatened to approach the court again against the new sub classification, seeking a separate category. Though the H.N. Nagmohan Das Commission recommended a separate category for these 59 castes last year, the State government included them in Category 3 along with relatively better-off communities such as the Banjara, Korama, Koracha and Bhovi. The tangled issue of the reservation matrix in Karnataka shows no signs of getting sorted soon.

*sharath.srivatsa@thehindu.co.in*

# India's worker population ratio has climbed since 2022

More women are entering the labour force particularly in rural areas

DATA POINT

**Chandrasekar K.**

The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2025, released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoS&PI) for January-December 2025, marks a significant methodological milestone. For the first time, the revamped PLFS covers both rural and urban India monthly – a departure from the earlier July-June urban-only quarterly cycle. It also offers the most granular all-India portrait of the labour market across urban and rural India in recent years.

India's overall Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for all ages stands at 44.9%, which means that around four in 10 Indians are either working or actively seeking work. The figure remains broadly stable at 44.7% in 2024 **(Chart 2)**.

In rural areas, women participate at 34.6%, which is modest compared with men, yet reflective of their engagement in agriculture and household-related work. However, in urban areas, women's participation falls to just 22.2%. The challenge becomes even more acute among urban young women. In these urban centres, nearly two in 10 women are employed. Urban men, by contrast, participate at 59.7% – more than twice that rate. This gap points to persistent challenges within India's urban labour market **(Chart 1).**

The youth unemployment rate for people aged 15-29 is 9.9%, more than three times the national average of 3.1%. For urban young women specifically, the rate is 18.9%, nearly one in five. These are not women outside the labour force, but women actively seeking work and unable to find it.

The PLFS makes this clear – the unemployment rate measures only those within the labour force, suggesting constraints in employment opportunities despite labour-force participation. The challenge becomes even more acute among urban young women **(Chart 3)**.

**Educated and unemployed**

Next, among persons aged 15 years and above with secondary schooling and more, the unemployment rate is 6.5% – more than double the national average. In urban areas, educated unemployment reaches 7.2%, whereas in rural areas it is 6%. This may indicate that rural educated workers are more likely to remain engaged in low-productivity subsistence activities rather than remain openly unemployed. Between 2022 and 2025, the overall unemployment rate has fallen from 3.6% to 3.1%, yet unemployment among the educated remains persistently elevated. The persistence of educated unemployment suggests that employment generation has not fully kept pace with the growth in the educated workforce **(Chart 4)**.

In rural areas, 70.7% of the working women are self-employed – a category that often reflects subsistence activity rather than entrepreneurial choice. In urban areas, 40.4% of working women are self-employed, reflecting a mix of entrepreneurial activity and informal work. Regular wage or salaried employment – often considered a marker of formal work – covers just 9.3% of rural working women, while another 20% are engaged as casual labourers. Urban areas offer a relatively better distribution, with 50.9% of working women in regular wage employment **(Chart 5)**.

The Worker Population Ratio for all persons has climbed from 39.7% in 2022 to 43.5% in 2025. More Indians are working, and more women are entering the labour force, particularly in rural areas where the female WPR rose from 26.9% to 33.8% over the same period **(Chart 6)**.

*The writer is an Indian Statistical Service Officer serving as Joint Director in MoS&PI. The views expressed are personal*

## Job hunting

The data for the charts were sourced from the annual Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2025, published by the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation. The data covers the period from January to December 2025. This is India's primary National Statistical Office (NSO) survey tracking employment and unemployment

**CHART 1:** Labour force participation rates by gender and location in 2025 (in %)

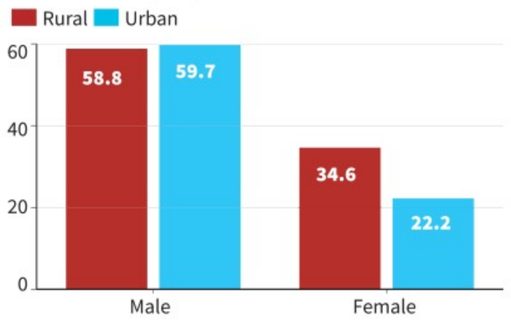



**CHART 4:** Location-wise unemployment rate among educated persons and all persons (in %)

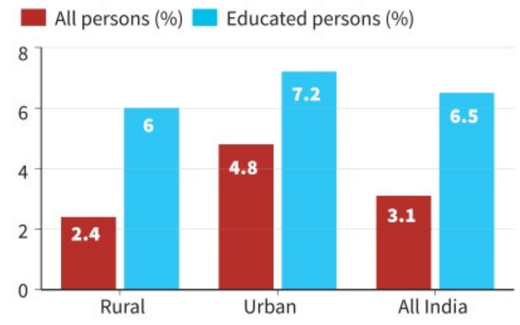



**CHART 2:** India's overall LFPR in persons aged 15 and above over the years (in %)

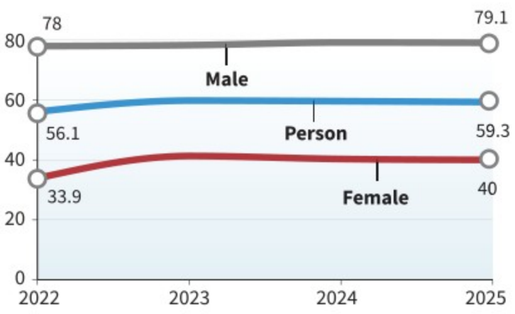



**CHART 5:** Employment type among women workers (in %)

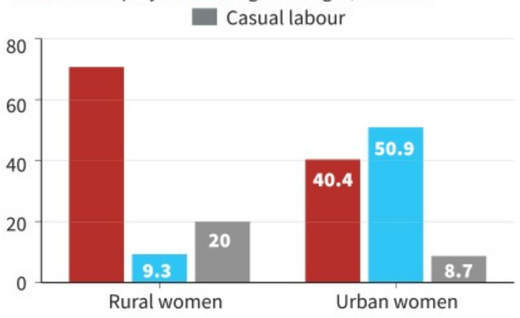



**CHART 3:** Youth unemployment rate by gender and location (in %) (ages 15 to 29)

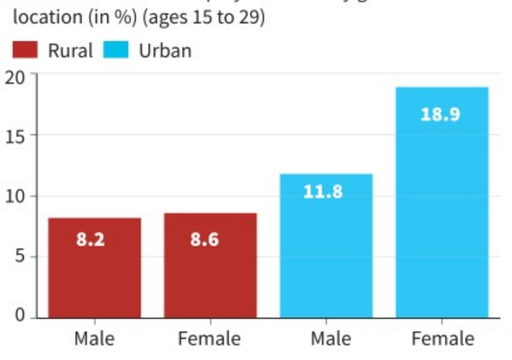
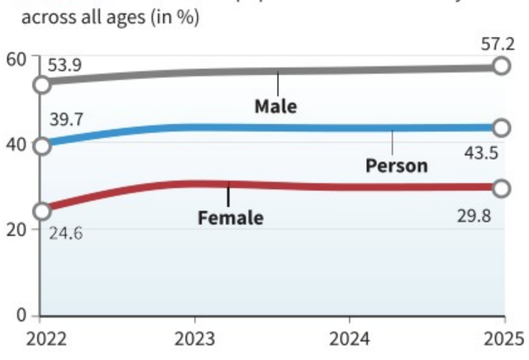



**CHART 6:** India's worker population ratio over the years across all ages (in %)




FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 13, 1976

## Pak. seeks debt relief, end to textiles quotas

Nairobi, May 12: Pakistan's Minister for Commerce and Industry, Mir Afzal Khan, yesterday called for an end to quantitative restrictions on cotton textile exports which he said hurt his country seriously.

Mr. Khan who was addressing the plenary session of the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) spoke of the plight of developing countries and said debt relief was the quickest and most effective form of providing additional assistance to such countries.

**Japan backs U.S. plan**

Japan told the session that though not all elements of the integrated programme seemed to be workable, they would be studied seriously from all angles. At the same time, Mr. Toshio Kimura, head of the Japanese delegation, described Dr. Kissinger's proposal for an international resources bank as 'most interesting' and hoped it would be further examined.

Mr. Kimura referred to a series of commodity negotiations in which his country had taken part recently and said Japan would participate actively in the existing inter-government consultations with regard to tea, jute. natural rubber and bananas.

Philippines Foreign Under Secretary Manuel Colliantes said Dr. Kissinger's proposal to negotiate commodity agreements on a case-by-case basis had been tried before and failed. The third world favoured a common six million dollar fund to finance stockpiles of commodities. Mr. Colliantes also said the Philippines had "reservations" about Dr. Kissinger's proposal to establish an international resources bank to promote development of raw materials resources in poor nations.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 13, 1926

## New flag design for S. African Union

Capetown, May 12: The Government has accepted the design of now Union flag consisting of a vertical red bar next the staff and horizontal bars of green, yellow and blue. The Union Jack will be flown in addition on state occasions.

## From Page One

### NEET-UG cancelled after question paper leak

"The inputs received by NTA, taken together with the findings shared by the law enforcement agencies, established that the present examination process could not be allowed to stand," the NTA Director-General said. "We verified the PDF circulating and found part of allegations true, that of similar questions having appeared in the guess paper. That violated our commitment [of zero error]," Mr. Singh explained.

"The question is not whether the leak was localised or not, it is that if integrity of the process was violated, it was violated. However, we will conduct re-exam in minimal possible time, and we will ensure that nothing of that sort is repeated," he said. The NTA came to the conclusion that the present exam was compromised, Mr. Singh told *The Hindu*. "Any move short of cancelling exams would signal that those who are trying to beat the system, scam the system would have succeeded," he explained.

The CBI has constituted special teams, which have been dispatched to various locations to follow up on leads. It has invoked provisions related to criminal conspiracy, cheating, criminal breach of trust, theft, and destruction of evidence under the Prevention of Corruption Act and the Public Examination Prevention of Unfair Means Act.

The Rajasthan Special Operations Group was previously investigating the case. Preliminary inquiry indicated that a handwritten "guess" paper was circulated in Rajasthan's Sikar a couple of days before the examination and most of its questions allegedly matched the actual paper.

The NTA added that though a re-test will cause significant inconvenience to candidates and their families, "the alternative would have caused greater and more lasting damage" to public trust.

Asked whether the NTA would consider holding computer-based tests (CBTs) instead of the paper-and-pen format with an optical mark recognition(OMR)-based answer sheet used in the latest exam – given that the examination has previously been leaked in 2024 as well – Mr. Singh said this was a decision for the Union Ministry of Education alone. "It is a big policy call as nearly 22 lakh medical aspirants appear for exams and we have the capacity to conduct CBTs only for 1.5 lakh students on any given day. This would mean administering exams over multiple days, for instance, say 22 days, introducing different question papers and then normalising scores over multiple variations of question papers. It is a massive task," Mr. Singh added.

*(With inputs from Devesh K. Pandey and Snehal Mutha)*

### Rebel AIADMK MLAs set to back TVK in floor test

In an interview with *The Hindu*, the Speaker acknowledged that he got separate representations from both sides (on the election of Legislature Party leader).

Earlier, Mr. Shanmugam accused Mr. Palaniswami of having attempted to form a government with arch rival DMK's support following the fractured mandate in the Assembly election. "This was a shock to us," he told journalists. Since the AIADMK was established to oppose the DMK, and its politics revolved around this for 53 years, any move to collaborate with its rival would lead to "the party's disappearance," he said. Therefore, it was resolved to extend support to the TVK.

Mr. Shanmugam and Mr. Velumani said the reasons for the party's electoral setbacks must be analysed. "We have requested the general secretary to convene a meeting of the general council," Mr. Shanmugam said, adding, "we are no longer in any pre-poll alliance". Mr. Velumani requested the media not to spread rumours that his group was seeking to create a split in the party. The group said G. Hari (Tiruttani MLA) was elected the deputy leader; C. Vijayabhaskar (former Minister), the whip; and Kamaraj, the secretary.

However, Mr. Manian, a supporter of Mr. Palaniswami, accused Mr. Shanmugam of spreading false information. He dismissed as "entirely baseless" Mr. Shanmugam's claim of alliance talks with the DMK. The rebels were driven by a desire to become Ministers, he said.

### Kerala CM suspense continues amid talks

Mr. Venugopal, the All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary reportedly backed by a significant number of Congress MLAs-elect; Mr. Satheesan, projected by his camp as the architect of the United Democratic Front's (UDF) historic win; and Mr. Chennithala, touted by his supporters as having long organisational and administrative experience and support of powerful social organisations, are the main contenders for the prime post. A KPCC insider said Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, MP, was also party to the talks on Tuesday.

Speaking to presspersons ahead of the meeting, Mr. Muraleedharan said the AICC's consultation need not necessarily be confined to "three names". He said the era of the triumvirate of K. Karunakaran, A.K. Antony, and Oommen Chandy in the Congress in Kerala was over.

"Second-tier leaders from the time of the three Chief Ministers have reached the top echelons of the party in Kerala. The generational shift gives the high command more latitude to make the right choice," he added.

# China's Foreign Minister set to skip BRICS meet in Delhi

Beijing cites 'scheduling reasons' and states that Chinese Ambassador to India Xu Feihong will be present; it expresses readiness to work with all BRICS members to support India as the Chair

**Ananth Krishnan**
BEIJING

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing on July 14, 2025. AP

There will be no high-level representation from Beijing at Thursday's meeting of BRICS Foreign Ministers in New Delhi because of "scheduling reasons", the Chinese Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday.

The May 14-15 meeting coincides with the visit to China by U.S. President Donald Trump, who lands in the Chinese capital on Wednesday. Foreign Minister Wang Yi will be in Beijing for Mr. Trump's visit. China will not be sending any other high-level official for the meeting, the Foreign Ministry indicated.

"Due to scheduling reasons, Chinese Ambassador to India Xu Feihong will represent Foreign Minister Wang Yi at this Foreign Ministers' Meeting," the Foreign Ministry said, adding that "China attaches great importance to and actively participates in BRICS cooperation, and is always committed to deepening the BRICS strategic partnership and consolidating the positive momentum of unity and cooperation among BRICS countries."

"We stand ready to work with all BRICS members to support India, as the Chair, in successfully hosting the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting and promoting the high-quality development of 'BRICS Plus' cooperation," the statement said.

Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs Randhir Jaiswal said on Tuesday at a weekly press briefing that the meeting scheduled for May 14-15 will be chaired by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. Visiting Foreign Ministers and heads of delegations from member and partner countries, including Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, will also call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "The discussions will focus on pressing global and regional issues of mutual concern among member states of BRICS," Mr. Jaiswal said, adding that the second day would see discussions on reviewing the group's evolution and future direction, and reforms of global governance and the multilateral system. The gathering this week takes place against the backdrop of the crisis in West Asia and divisions within the grouping, leading to doubts over whether the meeting will yield a joint statement. A meeting in New Delhi last month of Deputy Foreign Ministers and Special Envoys of the 11-nation BRICS grouping ended without a joint statement, as delegates from the United Arab Emirates and Iran sparred over the war in West Asia.

# Trinamool land policy led to project delays, says Centre

**Vijaita Singh**
NEW DELHI

One of the key reasons for the delay in land acquisition to erect fences along the Bangladesh border in West Bengal was the policy followed by the former Trinamool Congress government, according to a 2023 affidavit filed by the Union Home Ministry in the Supreme Court.

The Ministry had, through an affidavit, informed the Supreme Court that the West Bengal government had not adopted the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act (LARR Act), 2013, under which the government can take possession of any land needed for a public purpose.

According to submissions made before the Calcutta High Court in January this year, the West Bengal Government had handed over 78 km of border land to the BSF over the past three years, while 121 km of border length was yet to be transferred. Of the 285.25 km border length required by the BSF across the nine districts, including Nadia, North 24 Parganas, Murshidabad, Malda, Dakshin Dinajpur, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, and Cooch Behar, the State Cabinet had given clearance for 256 km.

Data presented before the court showed that the land purchase, measuring around 269 acres along 48.49 km of border, had been completed but was yet to be handed over to the BSF. The purchase and acquisition of around 1,156 acres remained pending, the data further showed.

While hearing a public interest litigation, the Calcutta High Court asked the counsels of the State and the Union Government "regarding applicability and feasibility of acquisition by invoking Section 40 of the Act of 2013."

Section 40 of the 2013 Act, "in cases of urgency," enables the government to take possession of any land needed for a public use.

# Responsible nations should reflect on their actions: MEA

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Days after a Chinese engineer told state broadcaster *CCTV* that Beijing had provided "on-site" technical support to the Pakistan Air Force during Operation Sindoor, the Ministry of External Affairs on Tuesday said that these reports "corroborate" what was known to India.

These comments coincide with the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor, which began on May 7, 2025 and continued till May 10, when a ceasefire was announced.

"We have seen reports that corroborate what was known earlier. Operation Sindoor was a precise, targeted, and calibrated response to the terrorist attacks in Pahalgam, aimed at destroying state-sponsored terrorist infrastructure operating out of Pakistan and at its behest," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said during his weekly press briefing.

"It is for nations that consider themselves responsible to reflect on whether supporting or protecting terrorist infrastructure affects their reputation and standing," he added.

As *The Hindu* had earlier reported, *CCTV* telecast an interview last Thursday with Zhang Heng, an engineer with the Aviation Industry Corporation of China's (AVIC) Chengdu Aircraft Design and Research Institute, a key developer of China's advanced fighter aircraft and unmanned aerial vehicle design. The Pakistan Air Force operates a fleet of Chinese-made J-10CE jets that are produced by an AVIC subsidiary.

"At the support base, we frequently heard the roar of fighter jets taking off and the constant wail of air-raid sirens," Mr. Zhang told *CCTV*.

# Opposition parties are spreading panic over PM's precautionary appeal: BJP

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Gaurav Bhatia

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday accused the Congress, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), and the Samajwadi Party (SP) of spreading panic and misinformation, stating that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to avoid unnecessary gold purchases and foreign travel was voluntary, precautionary, and aimed at protecting India's economy.

At a press briefing, BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said there was no shortage of any essential commodity in the country and that the government had taken effective measures to safeguard oil, gas, and foreign exchange reserves.

Despite 70 days of war, there had been no shortage of oil in the country, and fuel prices had not increased, and the government also reduced excise duty on both petrol and diesel by ₹10 per litre, he said. The government had taken several concrete steps, resulting in a nearly 30% increase in domestic oil and gas production, he added.

However, he pointed out, petrol prices increased by 23% in China, 45% in the United States, and 30% each in Canada and Australia after the outbreak of war in West Asia.

Targeting the Congress, AAP, and SP, the BJP leader said they were "indulging in politics even on issues related to national interest". While the people fully supported Mr. Modi's appeals, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, and Opposition leaders, including AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal, were making statements which created the impression that they were not even aware which countries were currently involved in war, the BJP spokesperson said.

Former Prime Ministers Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri, and Indira Gandhi had also made similar appeals in the past, Mr. Bhatia said. He referred to a statement by then Union Minister P. Chidambaram on June 13, 2013, of a similar appeal.

Mr. Bhatia also accused the Congress of spreading misinformation by posting a 2011-12 photograph to indicate a shortage of gas cylinders, which was not the case in reality.

### 'No need for a bizzare construct on PM's appeal'

**Saptaparno Ghosh**
NEW DELHI

Stressing that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for diligent use of retail fuel amid the West Asia crisis should be taken as a wake up call, Union Minister for Petroleum Hardeep Singh Puri said on Tuesday that there must not be a "bizarre construct" on the austerity appeal.

"If you look at the way it is happening, uncertainty is too mild a word. What he [Mr. Modi] has said is that we have to look at our lifestyle as well. There is no lockdown happening tomorrow," Mr. Puri said.

"We have sixty days of crude [oil] which is the maximum we need, sixty days of LNG [liquefied natural gas] and we have forty-five days of LPG," the Union Minister added. Mr. Puri also informed that India has ramped up its daily domestic production of LPG from 35,000-36,000 tonnes to 54,000 tonnes.

# Rahul records dissent on selection of CBI Director, calls it biased move

**Sandeep Phukan**
NEW DELHI

Rahul Gandhi

A high-powered committee chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi met on Tuesday evening to decide on the appointment of the next Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in which Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi submitted a dissent note, accusing the government of "institutional capture" of the agency to target political opponents, journalists, and critics.

The panel, headed by the Prime Minister, includes Chief Justice of India Surya Kant apart from the Opposition leader. The meeting took place at the Prime Minister's residence and lasted over an hour.

The tenure of the current CBI Director, Praveen Sood, is set to end on May 24.

Mr. Gandhi shared his strongly worded dissent note on his X handle and accused the government of making a "mockery" of the selection process.

"Your government has repeatedly misused the CBI, intended to be India's premier investigative agency, to target political opponents, journalists, and critics. It is to prevent such institutional capture that the Leader of the Opposition is included in the Selection Committee. Regrettably, you have continued to deny me any meaningful role in the process," Mr. Gandhi said.

Mr. Gandhi said that despite repeated written requests, he was not provided with the self-appraisal reports or 360-degree reports of the eligible candidates.

**'Not a rubber stamp'**

"Instead, I was expected to examine the appraisal records of 69 candidates for the first time during the Committee meeting. The 360-degree reports were denied to me outright. A detailed review of these records is crucial to assess each candidate's history and performance. This deliberate denial of information, without any legal basis, makes a mockery of the selection process and ensures that only your predecided candidate is selected," he said.

The Opposition leader reminded Mr. Modi that he had recorded his dissent in the previous meeting on May 5 and also written to him on October 21, 2025, suggesting measures for a fair and transparent process.

"By denying the Selection Committee crucial information, the government has reduced it to a mere formality. The Leader of Opposition is not a rubber stamp. I cannot abdicate my constitutional duty by participating in this biased exercise. I therefore dissent in the strongest terms," Mr. Gandhi said.

The key committee is responsible for finalising the selection of next CBI Director. The selection is done from a panel of shortlisted officers. Sources indicated that several senior IPS officers from different states are part of the list of officers being considered for the top CBI post.

# HC quashes Centre's decision refusing OCI status to journalist

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday set aside the Centre's decision rejecting journalist Siddharth Varadarajan's plea seeking conversion of his Person of Indian Origin (PIO) status to Overseas Citizen of India (OCI). Justice Purushaindra Kumar Kaurav restored *The Wire* founding editor's application and asked authorities to take a fresh decision on it in accordance with the law and pass a reasoned order. Also mentioned "there are no reasons assigned in the communications." It clarified that the petitioner can take an appropriate legal remedy in case of any subsequent grievance.

**APPEAL**

I am **Priyadarshini**, 14 years old and was advised to undergo CARDIAC CATHETERISATION TEST + RVOT STENT ANGIOPLASTY + PERCUTANEOUS PULMONARY VALVE IMPLANTATION at The Madras Medical Mission, Chennai. The surgery cost is **Rs.16,37,000/-**. I completed 10th Std and waiting to continue my education. Please help me with your generous contribution to undergo my treatment. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/M.O/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No. 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT. Your e-mail ID is requested.

All correspondence is done through **WWS,** Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No. 29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 31523781/ 7338978027.**
**E-mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com.**
Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org.

**Priyadarshini**

# Experts say NTA needs to be structurally reformed

As mix-ups recur, the agency faces charges of lax operational capacity, porous cybersecurity, poor crisis communication; experts suggest transition to digital test and decentralisation of admissions

**Bindu Shajan Perappadan**
NEW DELHI

With the cancellation of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) held on May 3, the National Testing Agency (NTA), which conducts it for undergraduate medical admissions, has yet again come under the scanner for its alleged lax operational capacity, porous cybersecurity, and poor crisis communication, according to experts.

Since its introduction in 2013, the NEET is now for the first time facing a full-scale cancellation and re-test, though it has had a rocky run with a limited re-test in 2024 for 1,563 candidates who had received grace marks for loss of exam time at certain centres. There have been allegations of impersonation every year in various States; candidates and coaching institutes paying large sums to obtain leaked question papers and answer keys; photos of papers taken and circulated with gangs distributing prepared answers for students to quickly memorise them; suspiciously high scores and inflation in ranking; and "organised cheating centres".

The NEET is a nationwide entrance exam for admission to over 10 undergraduate medical courses in India. It is one of the world's largest entrance exams with 20-24 lakh candidates taking it annually for over 2.5 lakh seats across all courses. In 2013, NEET-UG was conducted for the first time. In 2014-15, admissions to medical courses temporarily went back to separate State and private medical entrance exams, but a year later the Supreme Court revived NEET and the exam is now conducted by the NTA, which took over from the Central Board of Secondary Education in 2019.

National Students Union of India members protest over the alleged NEET paper leak in New Delhi on Tuesday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

### 'Weak link'

Speaking of several risks in the NEET-UG system, Rajeev Jayadevan, former president of the Indian Medical Association (Kochi), said, "While anti-cheating security measures at examination centres have kept up with the times, the old school mode of pen-and-paper examination itself appears to be the weak link in the chain. The question paper has to be physically printed, distributed, stored, and transported to individual centres – each is a point of vulnerability where a leak can occur. Even a single photo of the question paper is sufficient to breach the system. Given the high demand and potential for illegal monetary gains, such leaks will likely occur again unless the system is changed."

With numerous other examinations already in the digital format, it's time to upgrade the NEET-UG system to a computer-based platform so that potential points of breach are plugged and the distribution is encrypted, Dr. Jayadevan added. Students of the present generation are far more digitally literate, and a transition to a digital format should not be difficult, he said. Other experts have called for stronger digital security, decentralisation of admissions, allowing multiple attempts per year, and a hybrid tally, which includes aptitude and school scores.

Merely cancelling the exam cannot be the final solution to such a massive scam, Lakshya Mittal, chairperson, United Doctors Front, said. "Repeated incidents over the years clearly indicate the existence of a deep-rooted nexus and systemic failure which cannot be ignored any longer," Dr. Mittal said.

Doctors and healthcare experts demand a high-level, time-bound, and transparent investigation into the matter.

Previously, following the controversy around the 2024 paper leak and irregularities, the Centre and the NTA introduced a series of reforms, including the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, which criminalises paper leaks, cheating syndicates, impersonation, and organised exam fraud; the creation of a high-level reform committee to review the functioning of the NTA and recommend structural reforms; and a proposed shift to digital/hybrid exams and enhanced cybersecurity measures.

# No fee for NEET re-test; registration data and candidature to be retained

**Press Trust of India**
NEW DELHI

The cancellation of NEET-UG 2026 has left over 22 lakh medical education aspirants and their families anxious about the next steps, including the fresh examination date, admit cards, examination centres, and the counselling timeline.

While the National Testing Agency (NTA) is yet to issue detailed guidelines, here is an explainer on what is known so far.

**Why was NEET-UG 2026 cancelled?**

The NTA announced the cancellation of the May 3 examination following allegations of irregularities linked to the test.

**When will the re-test be held?**

The fresh dates have not yet been announced. The NTA has said the examination will be conducted on dates to be notified separately through official channels in the coming days.

**Will students have to register again?**

No. The NTA has clarified that the registration data and candidature from the May 2026 cycle will be carried forward to the re-conducted examination.

**Will candidates have to pay the examination fee again?**

No additional examination fee will be charged. The NTA has also said that fees already paid by students will be refunded.

**Will fresh admit cards be issued?**

Yes. The NTA has said the "re-issued admit-card schedule" will be communicated through official channels.

**Will students get the same examination centres?**

The NTA has said the examination centres opted for in the May 2026 cycle will be retained for the re-examination. However, the agency has not yet clarified whether there could be any changes in centre allotment.

**Will the examination be conducted again using external agencies?**

The NTA has said the examination will be re-conducted using its "internal resources".

**Why did the NTA decide to go for a re-test?**

According to the agency, the decision was taken "in the interest of students and in recognition of the trust on which the national examination system rests".

"The Agency is conscious that re-conduct will cause real and significant inconvenience to candidates and their families," the NTA said, adding that allowing the examination process to stand would have caused "greater and more lasting damage" to public trust.

**What should students do now?**

Candidates and parents have been advised to rely only on official NTA channels for updates regarding re-test dates, fresh admit cards and examination-related instructions.

The agency has also asked students to disregard unverified reports in this regard circulating on social media.

## Multiple controversies

Since NEET was introduced in 2013, the test has faced multiple controversies, including allegations of paper leaks, impersonation, and aspirant deaths

**2013:** NEET was introduced as a single entrance examination for medical admissions across India in 2013. However, the Supreme Court struck it down as unconstitutional on July 18, 2013

**2016:** The Supreme Court revived NEET in 2016 after recalling its earlier judgment

**2017:** An aspirant, S. Anitha of Tamil Nadu who had challenged NEET in court, killed herself after failing to secure admission. The case led to severe political opposition to the test in the State

**2019:** A major impersonation racket was uncovered in 2019, revealing that several candidates had used proxy candidates to write the test and secure admission in medical colleges. Many were arrested and the controversy prompted tighter biometric checks and scrutiny during admissions and examinations

**2020:** The conduct of NEET during the COVID-19 pandemic sparked nationwide debate. Students and Opposition parties sought postponement, citing public health risks, transport restrictions, and flooding in some regions. The Supreme Court, however, allowed the examination to be conducted

**2022:** A controversy erupted in Kerala after female candidates said they were asked to remove innerwear containing metal hooks before entering examination centres

**2024:** NEET-UG 2024 witnessed massive controversy over allegations of paper leaks and award of grace marks. Questions were raised after an unusually high number of candidates secured top ranks. In July 2024, the Supreme Court declined to order a nationwide re-test, saying there was insufficient evidence to establish a systemic breach affecting the entire examination

# Opposition targets 'corrupt' BJP over paper leak

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The cancellation of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate amid allegations of paper leak and examination irregularities triggered a political storm on Tuesday, with Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP of being "partners in the theft" of students' future.

Opposition parties accused the government of failing to safeguard the future of lakhs of students and demanded accountability from the National Testing Agency (NTA).

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge demanded strict action against officials responsible for the leak. "This is also tarnishing the reputation of our students as people may say they passed the exam by copying," Mr. Kharge told presspersons.

> If one's destiny is determined not by hard work but by money and connections, what meaning will education hold? The prime minister's so-called *Amrit Kaal* has turned into a *Vish Kaal* for the country
>
> **RAHUL GANDHI**
> Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha

In a post on X, Mr. Gandhi said the hard work, sacrifices and dreams of more than 22 lakh students had been "crushed by this corrupt BJP regime". "Some fathers took loans, some mothers sold their jewellery, lakhs of children stayed up all night studying, and in return, they got paper leaks, government negligence, and organised corruption in education," he said.

Calling the development "a crime against the future of the youth", Mr. Gandhi alleged that "paper mafias" repeatedly escaped punishment.

"If one's destiny is determined not by hard work but by money and connections, what meaning will education hold? The Prime Minister's so-called *Amrit Kaal* (era of elixir) has turned into a *Vish Kaal* (era of poison) for the country," Mr. Gandhi said.

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the Communist Party of India demanded structural reforms in the examination system. In separate statements, the CPI(M) and the CPI said lakhs of students had been subjected to severe psychological distress due to repeated irregularities in examinations.

Former Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party national convener Arvind Kejriwal alleged "political patronage" behind repeated paper leaks and said the NEET question paper had leaked four times in the last nine years. "I want to tell the students that they will have to come out on the streets. This government understands only the language of mass agitation," Mr. Kejriwal said.

In a post on X, Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha member Sagarika Ghose alleged there was "zero accountability" in the Modi government and described the administration as "incapable of daily governance".

# Himanta takes oath as Assam Chief Minister for second successive term

**The Hindu Bureau**
GUWAHATI

Himanta Biswa Sarma was sworn in on Tuesday as the Chief Minister of Assam for the second successive term, a first for a non-Congress leader in the State.

Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Sarma at the College of Veterinary Science playground on the southern edge of Guwahati.

Four others – Rameswar Teli and Ajanta Neog of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) president Atul Bora, and Bodoland People's Front (BPF) leader Charan Boro – were also sworn in as Ministers.

The AGP and the BPF are other constituents in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets Himanta Biswa Sarma after the swearing-in in Guwahati on Tuesday. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and other Union Ministers, the Chief Ministers of 22 NDA-ruled States and Union Territories, BJP national president Nitin Nabin, top industrialists, and religious leaders, including the seers of 17 Vaishnav monasteries across Assam, attended the swearing-in ceremony.

Among the foreign delegates present on the occasion was Sergio Gor, the U.S. Ambassador to India.

"May the blessings of Maa Kamakhya and Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardev (15th-16th century saint-reformer) illuminate the lives of everyone in Assam and open new pathways to peace, progress and prosperity. Assam will scale new heights of development in the coming days with their blessings," Mr. Sarma posted on social media platform X ahead of the swearing-in.

### 'Golden period'

"The NDA's third term will be a golden period for Assam," Mr. Bora said, assuring the people of accelerated development.

This is the NDA's third consecutive term in Assam. It swept the April 9 Assembly election by bagging 102 of the State's 126 seats. The BJP won 82 of these, and the AGP and BJP 10 each.

Sarbananda Sonowal, now a Union Minister, was the Chief Minister for the first NDA term from 2016. The BJP entrusted the reins of the State to Mr. Sarma in 2021.

# 'Bigger the theft, bigger the reward', says Rahul

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Mounting a scathing attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Election Commission over the appointment of former Chief Electoral Officer of West Bengal Manoj Agarwal as the State's new Chief Secretary, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday alleged that "the bigger the theft, the bigger the reward".

The government had appointed Mr. Agarwal, a 1990-batch IAS officer who oversaw the recent polls in West Bengal, as the new Chief Secretary.

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh said that the appointment showed "brazen collusion and connivance" between the EC and the BJP.

**CENTRAL ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION**
केन्द्रीय विद्युत नियामक आयोग CERC
6th, 7th, & 8th Floor, Tower-B, World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi-110029
सत्यमेव जयते

Petition No. 27/TL/2026 Dated: 11.5.2026

**NOTICE UNDER CLAUSE (a) OF SUB-SECTION (5) OF SECTION 15 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT, 2003**

An application under Sections14, 15 and 79(1)(e) of the Electricity Act, 2003 (the Act) has been made by **Adani Energy Solutions Limited**, Adani Corporate House, Shantigram, Near Vaishno Devi Circle, S. G. Highway, Khodiyar, Ahmedabad -382421 to establish the transmission project for "Transmission System for Evacuation of Power from potential renewable energy zone in Khavda area of Gujarat under Phase-V (8GW): Part C" (hereinafter referred to as "the Project") on a Build, Own, Operate and Transfer Basis consisting of the following elements:

| Sl. No. | Name of Transmission Element | Scheduled COD in months from Effective Date |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Establishment of 2500 MW, ± 500 kV KPS3 (HVDC) [VSC] terminal station (2x1250 MW) at a suitable location near KPS3 substation with associated interconnections with 400 kV HVAC Switchyard* | 48 months from SPV transfer |
| 2. | Establishment of 2500 MW, ± 500 kV South Olpad (HVDC) [VSC] terminal station (2x1250 MW) along with associated interconnections with 400 kV HVAC Switchyard of South Olpad S/s* | |
| 3. | Establishment of KPS3 (HVDC) S/s along with 2x125 MVAR, 420 kV bus reactors along with associated interconnections with HVDC Switchyard*. The 400 kV bus shall be established in 2 sections through 1 set of 400 kV bus sectionaliser to be kept normally OPEN. 400/33 kV, 2x50 MVA transformers for exclusively supplying auxiliary power to HVDC terminal. | |
| 4. | KPS3 - KPS3 (HVDC) 400 kV 2xD/C (Quad ACSR/AAAC/AL59 moose equivalent) line along with the line bays at both substations | |
| 5. | ±500 kV HVDC Bipole line between KPS3 (HVDC) and South Olpad (HVDC) (with Dedicated Metallic Return) (capable to evacuate 2500 MW) | |

**The 400 kV interconnections (along with all associated equipment/ bus extension, etc.) between HVDC and HVAC switch yards shall be implemented by the TSP.*

***Note:***

*I) The 1250 MW pole-1 shall emanate from 400 kV bus section 1 of KPS3 (HVDC) and terminate at South Olpad S/s. Similarly, the 1250 MW pole-2 shall emanate from 400 kV bus section 2 of KPS3 (HVDC) and terminate at South Olpad S/s.*

*ii) HVDC System will be designed with 100% power reversal capability as well as black start, automatic grid restoration and dynamic reactive power support capability.*

*iii) The rated power transmission capacity as well as the rated transmission voltage shall be defined and guaranteed at the rectifier DC Bus.*

*iv. TSPs of KPS3 shall provide space for scope at Sl. No. 4 as per the above scope.*

*v. TSP of South Olpad S/s shall provide space for scope at Sl. No. 2 as per above scope ensuring:*

*(a) indicative total space requirement for HVDC terminal station of size 400 m x 300 m. The AC switchyard connection and DC overhead line shall be from 300 m side of rectangular plot.*

*(b) the width of the approach road and access road shall be at least 10 m for facilitating smooth transportation of HVDC equipment including converter transformer and with access road all around the space for HVDC.*

*(c) the spatial arrangement for proposed space for HVDC terminal and the layout proposed for the current AC GIS transmission scheme is such that Bus duct length required for interconnection between AC GIS station and HVDC terminal is minimum to the extent possible in linear manner and the layout of the AC line termination gantries should be such that there is no crossing of present/ future AC lines and HVDC line near the termination ends of both AC and HVDC yards.*

*vi. Implementation timeline: 48 months from SPV transfer."*

2. The Central Transmission Utility of India Limited, vide its letter dated 22.12.2025,has recommended for the grant of a transmission licence to the applicant to establish the proposed transmission system.
3. Based on the material available on the record, the Commission vide order dated 9.5.2026 in Petition No. 27/TL/2026, has proposed to issue a transmission licence to the applicant for the establishment of the transmission scheme as noted in para 1 above.
4. A copy of the application, along with its annexures and enclosures, made by the applicant for the grant of an inter-State transmission licence to **Adani Energy Solutions Limited**, before the Commission can be accessed at the **www.adanienergysolutions.com** or inspected by any person in the Commission's office by following the laid down procedure.
5. Notice is hereby given in pursuance of clause (a) of sub-section (5) of Section 15 of the Act that suggestions or objections, if any, to the Commission's proposal to grant a transmission licence to the applicant, as aforesaid, be sent to the undersigned by **18.5.2026** at the above noted address. The suggestions or objections received after the specified date shall not be considered.
6. The application shall be taken up for the further hearing by the Commission on **19.5.2026**. Any person who files suggestions or objections may in his/her discretion attend the hearing, for which no TA/DA shall be paid by the Commission.

**Sd/-**
**(Harpreet Singh Pruthi)**
**Secretary**

## INBRIEF

### Infiltrator killed by Army near LoC in J&K's Poonch district

An infiltrator was killed on Tuesday as the Army foiled an infiltration bid on the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu division in the Pir Panjal Valley. An Army spokesman said soldiers detected "suspicious movement around 300 metres inside own territory in the general area of Krishna Ghati sector along the LoC at around 4 p.m." Troops "responded swiftly and foiled the infiltration attempt, ensuring that there was no breach of the LoC. One intruder has been neutralised," said the Army. Troops continue to dominate the area and maintain a high state of operational readiness across the sector, the Army added.

### CBI takes over probe into murder of Suvendu's aide

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday took over the probe into the murder of Chandranath Rath, the personal assistant to West Bengal Chief Minister and BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari. Meanwhile, the Uttar Pradesh Congress alleged that one of the three suspects held in the case had close links with the BJP. The CBI filed an FIR and formed a seven-member Special Investigation Team to probe the case. This comes a day after the West Bengal Police's SIT arrested the three suspected contract killers from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. They were identified as Vicky Maurya, Mayank Raj Mishra, and Raj Singh. The three were produced before a West Bengal court on May 11 and later sent to 13-day police custody.

## Four cheetah cubs killed in suspected leopard attack

**Mehul Malpani**
BHOPAL

Four cheetah cubs were found dead on Tuesday at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district, officials said, suspecting that they may have become prey to a leopard.

According to officials, the carcasses of the one-month-old cubs partially eaten were found by a monitoring team near the den site in Sheopur Territorial Division. The litter had been born on April 11.

"The cubs were last observed alive during the evening of May 11. *Prima facie*, the incident appears to be predation by another animal. The mother cheetah is safe and healthy," Kuno Field Director and Project Cheetah Director Uttam Kumar Sharma said.

The deaths hold significance as the four cubs were the first to be born in the open forest since India's reintroduction programme for the big cat species – Project Cheetah – was launched in 2022, as all previous births have taken place inside Kuno's large-ranging enclosures.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Wildlife Warden Samita Rajora told *The Hindu* that a thorough investigation was under way into the incident.

# IMD unveils 'block-level' monsoon forecast model

It has been a long-standing aim of IMD to provide hyper local forecasts to help farmers time their sowing precisely; however, the system might face a formidable test this year in light of El Nino

**Jacob Koshy**
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the monsoon, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday unveiled a new forecast system that will, for the first time, generate "block-level" forecasts of the season's arrival over 15 States. The system comprises about half of India's roughly 7,200-odd blocks.

Historically, such estimates are available, at best, over States or at the level of districts. For instance, it is known that the monsoon arrives in Mumbai around June 10 and in Delhi, around June 29. However, the inherent variation of the monsoon is such that even within a district, several blocks and villages remain rainless despite the monsoon having officially "arrived" in the district.

It has been a long-standing aim of the IMD to provide hyper-local forecasts to address this shortcoming to enable farmers to time their sowing precisely. At the new system's core are two forecasting models whose predictions are "blended" to sharpen accuracy. From the date of the monsoon's onset in Kerala, it can use AI-based analysis, the IMD's trove of nearly a century of detailed meteorological data and global weather models, to give the monsoon's itinerary with unprecedented granularity, Science Minister Jitendra Singh said at a press briefing.

At the new system's core are two weather forecasting models whose predictions are blended to sharpen accuracy. C. VENKATACHALAPATHY

**Forecasts for 4 weeks**

This was a system specifically developed at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, whose existing advisory system is built to deliver forecasts in a roughly weekly format. The blending framework, developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, a research institute of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, is designed to feed directly into the Ministry's pipeline and issue probabilistic forecasts for four weeks.

Currently, this system can be used to provide forecasts to 3,196 blocks across 15 States and one Union Territory. Two trial runs have already been completed successfully, according to a press statement. "These States are part of the monsoon core zone, which are the regions that are largely rainfed and are most sensitive to southwest monsoon dynamics," M. Ravichandran, Secretary to the Ministry, said at a press briefing. "Of course, going ahead we aim to extend this all over India but that requires more observational data."

Mr. Ravichandran told *The Hindu* that the system would face a formidable test this year given that the IMD and global models were expecting "below normal" rainfall in light of a developing El Nino – frequently causing weak monsoon rain in India – from July.

On Tuesday, the IMD launched a monsoon forecast model specifically for Uttar Pradesh with a 1-km resolution (indicative of granularity) that is valid for 10 days. This, Mr. Singh said, was because of a very extensive coverage of automatic weather stations in the State that allowed a weather model called Mithuna (which works at a 12.5-km resolution) to be "downscaled" to 1 km.

"We are encouraging other States to share their data with us that will allow their forecasts to be generated with higher resolution," Mr. Ravichandran added.

## MGNREGS workers to go on strike on Friday

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The NREGA Sangharsh Morcha and All India Kisan Sabha have called for an all-India strike by Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) workers on May 15, against the government's decision to discontinue the scheme. The Act will stand repealed on July 1, as per a notification issued by the Union government on Monday.

Describing MGNREGA as the "only legal guarantee of employment" for rural workers, AIKS said the scheme has served as a crucial lifeline for poor peasants, agricultural labourers, women, and rural youth.

It alleged that budget cuts, "exclusionary technological barriers", delayed wage payments, and the VB-GRAM(G) Act were undermining the rights-based character of the programme and weakening rural livelihoods.

The organisation endorsed a set of demands raised by workers' groups, including the rollback of the VB-GRAM(G) Act, expansion of MGNREGA to at least 200 days of guaranteed work, and a minimum wage of ₹700 linked to inflation.

## Baltimore crash: Indian expert, shipping firm face criminal charges

**M. Kalyanaraman**
CHENNAI

The U.S. Justice Department has slapped criminal cases against Synergy Marine of Singapore and Synergy Maritime of Chennai, as well as Radhakrishnan Karthik Nair, the Indian technical superintendent of container ship *Dali*, which collided onto a bridge in Baltimore, U.S., in March 2024. They have been charged with conspiracy, wilfully failing to immediately inform the U.S. Coast Guard of a known hazardous condition, obstruction of an agency proceeding, false statements, as well as pollution.

Synergy is the manager of *Dali*, manned almost entirely by Indian crew. Synergy and Grace Ocean Pvt. Ltd., the owner of the ship, had agreed to pay nearly $102 million in October 2024, to resolve a civil claim brought by the department on this matter.

The Justice Department has alleged an economic loss of $5 billion due to the accident that led to the death of six construction workers.

The collision was largely due to two onboard blackouts. The first blackout was allegedly caused by a loose electrical wire that snapped, from which Dali recovered. The second one was allegedly due to use of an unfit fuel pump for the generators which became starved of fuel and died, leading to loss of power and steering that caused the collision. The Justice department has alleged that information regarding the pump was concealed and false statements were made during the inquiry.

## Fresh push for implementation of PM SHRI in Bengal, Kerala, and T.N.

**Maitri Porecha**
NEW DELHI

The Union Ministry of Education has issued a fresh reminder regarding the pending implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) scheme to West Bengal, Kerala and Tamil Nadu after Assembly elections concluded in the three States.

Launched in September 2022, this five-year initiative aims to transform over 14,500 schools into "exemplar institutions" that lead the way in implementing the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, Union School Education Secretary Sanjay Kumar stated in his letter to the States, emphasising that 34 States and Union Territories have already moved forward with the scheme.

Despite the scheme running well into its third year, West Bengal is yet to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The Centre has sent 11 letters to West Bengal, including three letters in 2022, another three in 2023, three in 2024 and two letters in 2025 pushing for implementation of PM SHRI.

The PM SHRI initiative aims to transform over 14,500 schools into exemplary institutions, says the Education Ministry. FILE PHOTO

"The delay in signing the MoU has resulted in postponement of selection and development of PM SHRI schools in the State, affecting the intended benefits to students and consequent strengthening of the education system at large. It may be noted that only a limited time is left for the scheme to complete its five-year duration," the Ministry of Education's letter stated.

The letter to Kerala states that as of November 12, 2025, the Kerala government has kept the MoU in abeyance. The State previously moved to constitute a committee to examine specific implementation concerns.

"The communication has led to undue delay in the selection of State government schools... I hope that the matter has been resolved now, as only a limited time is left for the scheme to complete its duration," Mr. Kumar's letter to the Kerala government stated. In the letter addressed to Tamil Nadu, Mr. Kumar said the State had previously provided an undertaking to introduce the PM SHRI scheme for the 2024-25 academic session. However, the process remains incomplete despite 12 official requests from the Centre.

## HC seeks Centre's response on plea to broadcast FIFA WC

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday asked the Centre and Prasar Bharati to respond to a petition seeking the broadcast of the FIFA World Cup 2026, which is scheduled to commence on June 11.

The petition by Avdhesh Bairwa, a lawyer, sought directions to the Central government to acquire the broadcasting rights for the opening match, quarter-finals, semi-finals, and the final in favour of Prasar Bharati as an interim measure. By way of final relief, the petitioner sought that rights should be acquired for all 104 matches.

The court issued notice on the petition and listed it for hearing on May 20.

During the hearing, the court asked the petitioner why his plea should not be treated as a public interest litigation plea.

Senior counsel appearing for the petitioner argued that a citizen had the right to have access to such a telecast. While it was not an indefensible or absolute right, a "nudge" from the court would "go a long way", he added.

The petition said the FIFA World Cup is one of the most viewed sporting events in the world, and historically, the event has had a commercial broadcaster in India for each edition since 1998.

However, no broadcaster has acquired the broadcasting rights for the tournament in India this year, depriving the petitioner of his fundamental right to receive information and to access the telecast of the event, the plea asserted.

## TH CROSSWORD + 14792

(set by Dr. X)

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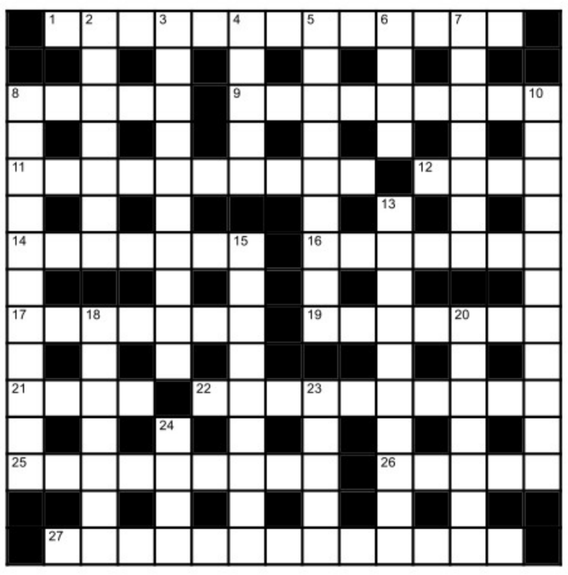
SCAN TO PLAY



**Across**

**1** American throttled by armed culprit violently - it could result in death penalty (7,6)
**8** Brief, sporadic fights (5)
**9** Falls down badly, loses consciousness primarily after consuming drink (9)
**11** Revives tipsy marines with tea (10)
**12** Fun in Gujarat's first sanctuary (4)
**14** Support copper beginning to berate beastly youngster (4,3)
**16** Gasp about diamond's size (7)
**17** Finest century, extremely impressive in final (7)
**19** Involve head of radiology in treatment of emboli (7)
**21** A little malfunction in opening umbrella (4)
**22** Moving injured girl at once (10)
**25** Remove coach after losing one game (9)
**26** Lyric poet in neighbourhood is terrific (5)
**27** Forbid foolish attendant picking up dope for transient visitor (4,2,7)

**Down**

**2** A Tibetan monk embracing a bishop in American state (7)
**3** How patient after surgery might be laughing uncontrollably (2,8)
**4** Cocaine found in a car travelling to capital city (5)
**5** Supple batter turned and smashed ball over English umpire's foot (9)
**6** Stern parent (4)
**7** Stored fodder in citadel is nearly over (7)
**8** Flasher in spot, without pants or belt (6,5)
**10** Find out and be incensed by drunk husband chasing girl inside (3,3,5)
**13** Like a film with some new rumba moves (10)
**15** Gambler turned richer (6,3)
**18** Musical instruments in church mass on island in Asia (7)
**20** Thinking of love and longing (7)
**23** Nearly all going topless on island near a port city of ancient Rome (5)
**24** Exercised in shade, Sun's coming up (4)

## SUDOKU

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | | | 1 | | 7 | | 2 | |
| | | 1 | | | 8 | 5 | | |
| 2 | 4 | | | | | 1 | 9 | |
| | 2 | | | 7 | | | 8 | 6 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | 8 | | | 2 | | | 5 | |
| | 3 | 9 | | | | | 7 | 5 |
| | | 4 | 3 | | | 2 | | |
| | 5 | | 7 | | 9 | | | 8 |

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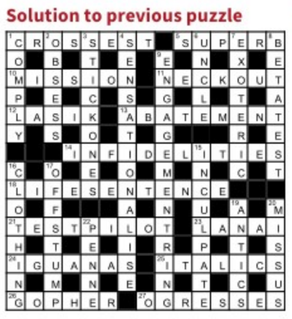
**Solution to previous puzzle**



**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 4 |
| 7 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 7 |
| 5 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 8 |
| 4 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 3 |
| 6 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| 1 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 9 |
| 9 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 6 |
| 2 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 1 |

## FAITH

### Mother of true *Aishwaryam*

Everyone prays for wealth to lead a comfortable life. Do we ever stop to ask ourselves what true wealth is? Is it integrity, is it following daily rituals, is it raising one's children to know right from wrong and stressing the importance of embracing a dharmic way of life as ordained in our scriptures? Acharyas, such as Swami Vedanta Desikan (Sri Stuti), Alavandhar, Ramanuja (Saranagati Gadhyam) and many others, say that one has to pray to Mahalakshmi, surrender to Her in order to gain gnana, the only meaningful wealth in this life, said Damal Perundevi.

Mahalakshmi is the pivot around which everything revolves and only with Her glance upon oneself can one get Perumal's grace. Narayana Bhattadri says that during *Pralayam* (dissolution of creation), He turns into a child, floats on a leaf and observes everything. During creation, He crafts everything and subsequently/ seeks approval from Thaayar. How does She respond? Only through Her eyes. She looks around with Her encompassing eyes and Her compassionate heart. This characteristic of Hers is proved time and again. For instance, When Perumal manifested as Rama, Thaayar came down as Sita to help Him vanquish Ravana. She showed Her compassion when Ravana abducted her and held her captive in Ashok Van in Lanka. She promised liberation to her jailors and kept her word, when Rama defeated Ravana and rescued her. Her compassion is limitless. It is this attribute of Hers which makes Her recommend a true devotee to Perumal, recommending that He overlook the *doshas* (faults) in the devotee. Bhakti is the true wealth and that comes only with Her grace.

## INBRIEF

### Adani Ports to invest $1.36 bn in Europe expansion

Adani Ports said on Tuesday it will deepen its European footprint by building offshore capabilities with U.S. engineering firm Oceaneering International, committing $1.36 billion in capital spending through fiscal year 2031. The country's largest private port operator said it is targeting marine revenue of ₹60 billion ($627.43 million) from the expansion. As part of the planned expansion, its marine services unit Astra Offshore will develop a fleet of 200 vessels with specialised offshore capabilities. The deal reflects Adani Ports' strategy to scale up its global footprint and tap rising offshore logistics demand in Europe, as it seeks to diversify beyond its core domestic port business and build a meaningful presence in maritime services. The move also comes after the ports operator forecast slower core earnings growth in fiscal 2027. REUTERS

### PSBs clock 4th straight year of profits, FY26 net grows 11%

Public sector banks (PSBs) have recorded an all-time high net profit of ₹1.98 lakh crore in 2025-26 fiscal year, marking the fourth straight year of profitability, the finance ministry said on Tuesday. Improved asset quality, healthy credit expansion and higher income contributed to improved profitability of PSBs during 2025-26, the ministry said. Aggregate operating profit reached ₹3.21 lakh crore, while aggregate net profit increased by 11.1% y-o-y to a historic high of ₹1.98 lakh crore, marking the fourth consecutive year of aggregate profitability for PSBs.

The aggregate business of PSBs increased to ₹283.3 lakh crore as on March 31, 2026, registering growth of 12.8% over the previous year. Aggregate deposits rose 10.6% year-on-year to ₹156.3 lakh crore, reflecting continued depositor confidence and strong resource mobilisation by PSBs. PTI

# What trade deals promise are far from reality: CEA

There is a 'substantial' gap between what FTAs promise and what regulations currently permit, warns CEA Anantha Nageswaran, days after EU envoy's similar statement on compliance issues

**T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan**
NEW DELHI

Chief Economic Advisor V. Anantha Nageswaran at the CII's Annual Business Summit 2026, in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) create value only once they are implemented not when they are signed, Chief Economic Advisor V. Anantha Nageswaran asserted on Tuesday, warning that there is a "substantial" gap between what the trade deals promise and what the regulatory frameworks actually allow.

Mr. Nageswaran's comments come days after the European Union's Ambassador to India too warned that compliance issues could still derail the benefits of the India-EU FTA.

During his speech at the Confederation of Indian Industry's Annual Business Summit 2026, Mr. Nageswaran said that the nine trade agreements and comprehensive economic partnerships that India had entered into in the last five years "represent the most concentrated burst of trade diplomacy in independent India's history".

**Statements of intent**

He added that the frameworks with the United Kingdom, European Union, EFTA, U.S., Oman, New Zealand and Australia were not merely commercial arrangements.

"They represent a diversification of economic relationships that is simultaneously a statement of strategic intent that India will expand its economic footprint across multiple geographies, reducing dependence on any single market or corridor," he said. However, he also noted that such agreements created value only at implementation, not at signing.

"The gap between the frameworks we have concluded and the depth of integration they would actually permit if the regulatory standards and procedural barriers on both sides were seriously addressed remains substantial," Mr. Nageswaran noted.

"The imperative is to close that gap with the same urgency that was brought to the conclusion of the agreement themselves," he added.

At a separate industry event last week, the EU's Ambassador to India Hervé Delphin pointed out that customs procedures or conformity requirements should serve their purpose and not be used as trade barriers.

# 'India-Oman FTA on track for June 1 start even as deal with Chile hit hurdles'

**T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan**
NEW DELHI

Piyush Goyal

The India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) will "probably" be implemented on June 1, 2026, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on Tuesday, following a meeting with the negotiating team from Oman.

He added that the India-Chile Free Trade Agreement negotiations have hit some hurdles due to the difference in the sizes of the economies involved.

"I had a very good meeting with the Oman team today and most probably the Oman FTA will come into effect from June 1, 2026," Mr. Goyal told reporters on Tuesday on the sidelines of the CII Annual Business Summit 2026.

**'Productive meeting'**

Earlier in the day, he posted on social media that he had held a "productive" meeting with Pankaj Khimji, Adviser for Foreign Trade and International Cooperation at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion in Oman.

"Discussions focused on strengthening India-Oman economic cooperation, enhancing connectivity & logistics linkages, facilitating trade flows, and exploring new avenues for bilateral partnership under the India-Oman CEPA framework," Mr. Goyal had posted. The India-Oman CEPA was signed on December 18, 2025.

However, in contrast, the Commerce Minister indicated that talks with Chile were running into some trouble.

"With regard to Chile, I had a very good meeting with the foreign minister," Mr. Goyal said.

**'Some challenges'**

"There are some challenges, given the very different sizes of the economies and different scales of opportunities that both countries offer to each other."

While he said that the two sides were trying to bridge that gap through "innovative solutions", he also did specify certain things that Chile could offer India to encourage it.

"If we get a good deal on critical minerals and other important concessions, then maybe there is a very good possibility that we should be able to finalise an FTA with Chile too," Mr. Goyal said.

# 'Power, Finance ministries have accepted policy for linking fiscal incentives with RE adoption'

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Seeking to encourage States to sign power purchase agreements (PPAs), renewable energy adoption would be linked to fiscal incentive for States, Prahlad Joshi, Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) said at the Confederation of Indian Industry's Annual Business Summit 2026.

"Renewable energy adoption is being linked with the fiscal incentives for the States," he said, adding, "The new policy which has been accepted by [Union] finance and power ministries both. Broadly, this is encouraging States to [sign] more PPAs."

Mr. Joshi also mentioned that the government was working "very seriously" on addressing present issues relating to power generation from renewable sources.

"This energy is affordable, reliable and that is why we are working it out. Some of the constraints we are facing today, with respect to grid and transmission, we are working on that too."

The Union MNRE Minister also said that while global investments in the renewable space had declined 7%, India had observed "strong investment flows" in the sector.

# Indices slide almost 2%, rupee touches new low on West Asia

**Ashokamithran T.**
MUMBAI

**Market mayhem:** FII have sold more than ₹2 lakh crore worth Indian equities as of Tuesday. REUTERS

India's equity investors dumped stocks for the fourth consecutive day, pulling Nifty 50 and Sensex down by over 1.8% closing at 23,379.55 and 74,559.24 respectively on Tuesday. The rupee, meanwhile, closed at a new low of ₹95.6 a dollar.

PM Narendra Modi had appealed to the citizens to cut down on foreign travel, reduce use of petroleum products by working from home and pausing gold purchases by an year. Brent Crude futures meanwhile increased 3.7% to $107.4 on Tuesday.

The market rout was broad-based with 2,750 stocks declining on the Nifty 50 and just 590 advancing. Further, all 21 sector-based indices declined with many of them crashing by more than 2%.

Foreign Institutional Investor interest in Indian equities, measured by net outflows, has been hitting new lows, crossing over ₹2 lakh crore as of Tuesday.

"Unless there is any meaningful progress in talks or signs of de-escalation in West Asia conflict, volatility and weakness in domestic equities are likely to persist," according to Siddhartha Khemka, head of research, wealth management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd.

## EXIM Bank plans $10.5 billion fundraise

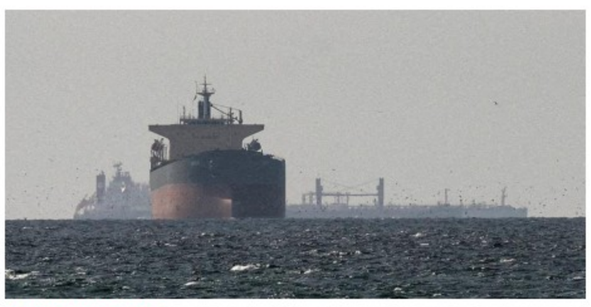
**Reuters**
MUMBAI

The Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) plans to raise about ₹99,500 crore ($10.5 billion) in fiscal 2027 through domestic and overseas borrowing, its managing director said, as the bank looks to strengthen its funding profile.

The spread on the bank's 10-year bond issued in January has narrowed to 70 basis points from 86 bps over the past three months, strengthening its confidence to pursue foreign-currency borrowing in this environment, managing director Harsha Bangari told *Reuters* on Monday.

# Govt. unveils insurance pool for Indian vessels amid West Asia crisis

**Saptaparno Ghosh**
NEW DELHI



**Choppy waters:** Cargo ships sailing in the Gulf, near the Strait of Hormuz. REUTERS

Amid rising risks to shipping on escalating West Asia tensions, the Department of Financial Services (DFS) unveiled Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMIP) holding a sovereign guarantee of ₹12,980 crore for continuous stream of maritime coverage.

The pool would cover all risks associated with maritime operations such as hull and machinery, cargo, protection and indemnity (P&I) and war risk for Indian-flagged vessels.

The Union Cabinet accorded approval for this proposal on April 18. It observed increased geopolitical instability impacted maritime trade, translating into higher insurance costs and uncertainty in its continued availability. The Cabinet had also made "high dependence of Indian vessels" on International Group of Protection and Indemnity (IGP&I) for P&I insurance covering cargo damage, crew injury and repatriation and collision liabilities, among others.

BMIP would service claims of up to $100 million without any help from the government or by the insurers in the pool. However, should it exceed $100 million, the sovereign guarantee would be invoked to service claims as a "contingent backstop of last resort" after the pool's accumulated reserves have been exhausted, alongside the individual contribution from members and reinsurance arrangements.

At the inauguration, DFS Secretary M. Nagaraju handed over the first marine hull and machinery war policy document to Hoger Offshore and Marine Private Ltd. issued by New India Assurance. Also, a marine cargo war policy was presented to Vedanta Sterlite Copper, covering cable wire import whilst another was extended to Balrampur Chini Mills Ltd.

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कौशल, नियोजन एवं उद्यमिता विभाग,
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E-mail- scheme.dot@rajasthan.gov.in
No: DTE/T-4(SCHEME)/PMPES/4324(3)/2026/61141 दिनांक: 07.05.2026
Corrigendum- VII
ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 01/2025-26 में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किये जो रहे है:—

| S.N. | UBN No. | Corrigendum |
|---|---|---|
| 01 | TET2526SLOB00140, TET2526SLOB00141, TET2526SLOB00142, TET2526SLOB00143, TET2526SLOB00144, TET2526SLOB00145, TET2526SLOB00146, TET2526SLOB00147 | PM SETU योजनांतर्गत जारी RFP के क्रम में दिनांक 01.05.2026 का आयोजित Pre-Bid Meeting में Bidders से प्राप्त Queries से संबंधित Responses संलग्न है। |

अन्य नियम एवं शर्तें पूर्ववत् रहेंगी।
DIPR/C/8155/26 निदेशक (प्रशिक्षण)

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF PUNJAB
RECRUITMENT NOTICE
(Advt. No. CUPB/26-27/006 Dated 12.05.2026)
Online applications are invited from prospective & eligible candidates for following Teaching & other Academic Posts on Regular basis:
➢ Professor ➢ Librarian
➢ Associate Professor ➢ Deputy Librarian
➢ Assistant Professor
Last Date to apply online: 02.06.2026 (upto 05 PM)
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PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
MARINE DEPARTMENT
No.MD/ACCTS/WK/R-11/2025/567
Date : 08/05/2026
E-TENDER CALL NOTICE-CUM-E-AUCTION
Name of the work : Manning, Maintenance and Commercial Operation of PPA Slipway and Other Ancillaries on payment of Licence Fee for a period of 05 (Five) years. Reserved Price : Rs.3,69,39,980/- plus GST as applicable for 05 years. Last Date & time of submission of tender through on-line bidding is 17:30 hours on Dt.01/06/2026.Date & time of opening of Technical Bid is 11:30 hours on dt.02.06.2026. For details,please log on to the Website:https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.
Deputy Conservator, PPA
PPA/PR/09/2026-2027,Dt.11/05/2026

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KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : 01/2026-27/ KWA/PHC/ TVLA(RT1),02/2026-27/KWA/PHC/TVLA,04/2026-27/KWA/PHC/TVLA (RT1),05/2026-27/KWA/PHC/TVLA (RT1) JJM- 1) Providing 1348 FHTCs in Naranammoozhy Pt 2) JWSS to Kulanada- Mezhuveli-design, Construction And Commissioning of 11 MLD WTP, O & M for 3 years, RWPM, CWPM, Pumpsets and transformer, 3) WSS to Kulanada-Mezhuveli-Construction of 12 LL OHSR in Mezhuveli Pt, Supplying and laying 250 mm CWPM from WTP to OHSR at Maladevarkunnu 4) WSS to Mylapra - Construction of 6LL OHSR, 7LL GLSR, pump house at Pezhumpara, Supply and Laying of Pumping Mains, Supply and Erection of Pumpsets, etc at Vadasserikara Pt, EMD : Rs. 200000-500000, Tender fee : Rs. 19518 to 13010, Last Date for submitting Tender : 29-05-2026, 02:00 pm, Phone : 8547638027
Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-14-2026-27 PH Circle, Pathanamthitta

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking & An ISO 27001-2022 Certified Company)
e-Procurement Tender Notice
The APTRANSCO invites bids online for Spec No.PMM31-e-36/2026. Nature of Work: Supply of various 220kV C&R Panels with BCUs under System Improvement & RMI works of APTRANSCO. Date & Time of availability of Tenders: 12.05.2026 at 05:00 PM. Web: https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in.
R.O. No.GMCC/APTRANSCO/31/26-27 Sd/- Chief Engineer/Transmission

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA
email- serwsbd2003@yahoo.com
Letter No. 2071 Date: 08/05/2026
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH GePNIC e Procurement Notice
1. Name of the work : Construction of Road Works - 03 Nos.
2. Class of contractor : "B" Class, "A" Class & Special Class of (Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authority.
3. Estimated Cost : Various from Rs.287.44 Lakhs to Rs.685.38 Lakhs (Approximately).
4. Details of projects : As per Annexure attached.

| Procurement Officer | Bid Identification No. | Availability of Tender online for bidding | | Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification | Date & Time of opening of tender | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | From | To | | Technical Bid | Financial Bids |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda | CCERWCSBD - Online - 03/2026-27 | 15.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M | 04.06.2026 up to 5.00 P.M. | 03.06.2026 up to 2.00 P.M. | 05.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M | To be intimated separately |

5. The details of works can be seen from the web site https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in
6. Any Corrigendum/ Addendum will be displayed in the above e tender web site.
Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda.
25001/120/2627 OIPR-25001/25182/1/26-27/0008

MSME TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
Process and Product Development Centre
An Autonomous body under Ministry of MSME, Govt of India, Foundry Nagar, Agra - 282006 (U.P.)
Extension Centre - Coimbatore Organizes
Online Training Program On
INTERNAL AUDIT
Integrated Management System {IMS}
(ISO 9001:2015, 14001:2015, 45001:2018)
Course Content: Introduction about ISO, Principles of ISO standard, Detailed discussion on standards, Assessment of participants, Aspects and impacts, Quality - Environment - Occupational health and safety, Hazard identification and Risk assessment.
For Registration
Date: 16th - 30th May 2026 Time: 06.00 P.M - 09.00 P.M
Fees: 4,130/- (Inclusive of GST) Duration: (5 Days) (only Sat & Sun)
Contact: 9600776611, 8667359360, 7358887633
Visit us at:www.ppdcagra.dcmsme.gov.in
E- Certificate will be Awarded
Disclaimer: Be aware of fraudulent activities. We never ask to make payment on any personal account.

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
Bangalore - 560012
IISc/CCMD/Tenders/2026-27 Date: 11.05.2026
Tender Notification- IISc/ Tender-CIV-03/2026-27
Indian Institute of Science invites bids in two cover system through e-procurement platform https://eprocure.gov.in. Any specialized firms company registered under KPWD /CPWD / railways/ MES/ central PSUs/ or any Government department of Class I/Class A Civil Contractors are eligible to apply for the work of "Providing and fixing of AMR Water meter including modification of plumbing lines (CPVC, GI) and provision of additional water storage tanks at Vijnanpura Resident Quarters, IISc-Bangalore". Estimated Cost of Project is Rs. 93,66,136/-. Last date of receipt of application is 01st June 2026 at 15:30 Hrs. Any other details can be obtained from the office of the Centre for Campus Management & Development, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore on all working days or e-mail: office.ccmd@iisc.ac.in
Sd/-, Registrar

TNPL TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136, Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.
Kagitha Nagar, Mondipatti - 621 306, Trichy Dist, Tamil Nadu.
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

| Tender No. | Description | Due date |
|---|---|---|
| 262713 000867 | Procurement of Screens for Paper Machine #2 in TNPL Unit-I. | 27.05.2026 |
| 262723 000517 | Procurement of LATEX 2 - PRE COAT - (SBR BINDER) for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit-II. | 21.05.2026 |
| 262723 000528 | Procurement of CATIONIC ROSIN for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit-II. | 21.05.2026 |
| 262723 000519 | Procurement of LUBRICANT for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit-II. | 22.05.2026 |
| 262723 000520 | Procurement of WATER RETENTION AGENT for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit - II. | 23.05.2026 |

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. For further details, please visit websites : www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
DIPR/1872/Tender/2026 TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper

WASHINGTON

## 'Pakistan parked Iranian planes on its airfield to escape U.S. air strikes'

AP

Pakistan, which is playing a mediator role to end the U.S.-Iran war, allowed Iranian military aircraft to park on its airfield to shield them from American air strikes, according to a U.S. media report. The *CBS News* report prompted Republican Senator Lindsey Graham to call for dumping Pakistan as mediator in the conflict. PTI

BEIRUT

## Hezbollah chief says group's arms not part of Israel-Lebanon talks

AFP

Hezbollah chief Naim Qassem said on Tuesday that his Iran-backed group's weapons were not part of upcoming negotiations between Lebanon and Israel, and vowed his fighters would turn the battlefield into "hell" for Israeli forces. Mr. Qassem on Tuesday called for a "withdrawal from the direct negotiations". AFP

GENEVA

## UN slams death toll of children from Israel's West Bank operations

AP

The United Nations condemned on Tuesday the toll from swelling Israeli military operations and settler attacks in the occupied West Bank on children, with 70 Palestinian children killed since early 2025. Israeli soldiers or settlers have killed at least 1,070 Palestinians, including many militants, according to a tally. AFP

PESHAWAR

## Bomb rigged to rickshaw explodes in Pakistan bazaar, killing at least 9

AP

A bomb rigged to a rickshaw exploded in a bazaar in northwest Pakistan on Tuesday, killing at least nine persons and wounding more than two dozen others, police said, in the latest sign of escalating violence in the region bordering Afghanistan. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing. AP

# Russia, Ukraine end truce after trading new attacks

**Agence France-Presse**
KYIV

**Gaining control:** A firefighter attempting to extinguish a fire at the site of an air strike in the Dnipro region of Ukraine. AFP

Russia ended a three-day ceasefire with Ukraine on Tuesday by launching a wave of more than 200 attack drones that damaged energy facilities and apartment buildings, killing one person, Ukrainian officials said.

Moscow's army announced Kyiv had also restarted its retaliatory attacks on Russia, saying its air defence units had downed 27 Ukrainian drones after the ceasefire expired.

U.S. President Donald Trump had announced the pause on Friday, hours before Russian leader Vladimir Putin presided over a scaled-down military parade in Red Square to mark the anniversary of victory in the Second World War.

"Russia itself chose to end the partial silence that had lasted for several days. Overnight, more than 200 attack drones were launched against Ukraine," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on social media.

He wrote that Russian forces had launched more than 80 aerial bombs near the front and more than 30 air strikes in attacks across seven regions that damaged energy facilities, apartment buildings, a kindergarten and a train.

"Russia must end this war, and it is Russia that must take the step toward a real, lasting ceasefire. Until that happens, sanctions against Moscow must remain in place," Mr. Zelenskyy added.

Even before the truce expired, the two countries had traded accusations of attacks on civilians that violated it.

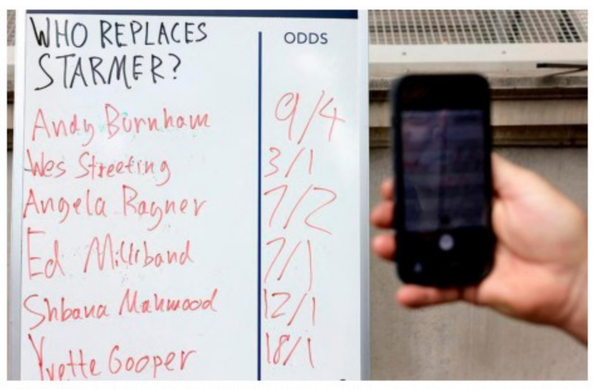
# British PM Starmer says he will not quit after Labour's local poll losses

Among those considered challengers to Starmer are former Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner, Health Secretary Wes Streeting and Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham; PM says, 'the country expects us to get on with governing'

**Sriram Lakshman**
LONDON

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer pushed back against over 70 MPs in his party, resisting calls to step down after the Labour Party lost big in council elections in England and assembly elections in Scotland and Wales last week.

"The Labour Party has a process for challenging a leader and that has not been triggered," the Prime Minister said at a Tuesday morning Cabinet meeting, as per No. 10 Downing Street. "The country expects us to get on with governing. That is what I am doing and what we must do as a cabinet," he added.




**Next in line:** People take photographs of a betting company's odds on contenders to be the next leader of the Labour party. AFP

A number of MPs publicly asked Mr. Starmer to resign over the course of Monday, after the Prime Minister delivered a speech in the morning, viewed by some in Labour as his final attempt to salvage his premiership. Several senior officials and one junior Minister had resigned in connection with Mr. Starmer's leadership.

Key Ministers – Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood, Defence Secretary John Healey, Deputy Prime Minister David Lammy, and Foreign Yvette Cooper reportedly asked Mr. Starmer to agree to an orderly exit and and leadership transition. As per party rules, 20% of the party' MPs – or 81 MPs at present – must provide in writing their support to replace the leader. However, Mr Starmer's opponents have not coalesced around a replacement for him.

Among those considered challengers to Mr. Starmer are former Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner, Health Secretary Wes Streeting and Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham. Mr. Starmer has argued that changing the leader would cause chaos, referring to the multiple changes in No. 10 during the 14 years of Tory rule, which saw five Prime Ministers. Some of Mr. Starmer's supporters echoed this view on Tuesday.

"This is not a game," says Housing Secretary Steve Reed, adding that the instability had consequences for people's lives. "We must unite behind the Prime Minister," Mr. Reed wrote on X.

Mr. Starmer had led Labour in a landslide victory in the July 2024 general election. The Prime Minister has argued that more time is required to see the changes that voters asked for in the last general election.

# Amid recovery fuelled by worker remittances, Sri Lanka remains wary of West Asia conflict

**Meera Srinivasan**
COLOMBO

Heavily reliant on worker remittances from West Asia for its economic recovery, Sri Lanka has expressed "grave concern" over the escalating conflict in the region.

Migrant workers sent a record $8 billion in remittances last year, boosting foreign reserves and helping recovery from the country's 2022 economic crash. A total of 3,10,915 Sri Lankans left for foreign employment in 2025, according to Central Bank data, working mainly in domestic service, caregiving, construction, and agriculture. The UAE, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia were the largest sources of remittances, along with the U.K., which included funds routed through other countries.

"Sri Lanka expresses its grave concern regarding the recent hostilities in the West Asian region," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment & Tourism said on May 6. Pointing to a large Sri Lankan expatriate population whose safety is a "matter of paramount concern," the Ministry called for "maximum restraint" from all parties, without naming any party to the conflict.

Since late February, when the U.S.-Israel combine launched its war on Iran, triggering a series of retaliatory attacks, Sri Lanka's migrant workers have been living in precarity. Even so, they contributed $815 million in remittances in March, recording a year-on-year growth of 17.5%. "Cumulatively, remittances during the first quarter of the year recorded a notable growth of 26.5% on a year-on-year basis," the Central Bank said. Despite tensions and grave risks in the West Asian region, workers' remittances in this period far exceeded earnings from the exports and tourism sectors, two other key foreign exchange earners.

In April 2026, the International Monetary Fund, which steers the island's recovery programme, including through painful austerity measures, noted that Sri Lanka's "ambitious reform agenda" continued to deliver "commendable outcomes". It pointed to 5% growth in 2025, positive inflation, and an increase in gross official reserves to $7 billion at end-March 2026.

The Sri Lankan government is trying its 'level best' to motivate workers abroad, says Arun Hemachandra. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

### Overseas jobs

Although hostilities in West Asia are impacting Sri Lanka "directly and indirectly" – such as fuel price hikes, soaring air ticket prices – they have not affected remittances from workers, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Employment Arun Hemachandra told *The Hindu*. "We sincerely hope there is stability in the [West Asian] region and workers can continue going overseas. We also hope there are no huge job losses like we saw during the pandemic," he said.

Sri Lankan missions in the region have been instructed to offer more support and emergency assistance to workers through helplines. "We are also engaging closely with our multilateral partners such as the International Labour Organization and the International Organization for Migration," he said, adding that the government was trying its "level best" to motivate workers abroad and those seeking employment overseas.

The Anura Kumara Dissanayake administration aims to send 4,00,000 workers abroad this year, continuing its predecessor government's policy of encouraging labour migration to bolster foreign reserves amid the tentative recovery. With the conflict in West Asia persisting, however, it remains unclear if it may be "practically possible" to meet that target, the Deputy Minister said. As of May 5, as many as 82,302 people have registered for overseas employment, officials said. Since the 2022 economic crisis, Sri Lanka has seen a sharp increase in passport applications as families try sending a member abroad, hoping their earnings will help with the rising living costs at home.

Asked why tens of thousands of workers are scrambling for jobs overseas, leaving behind their families and enduring exploitative working conditions, while the government claims it has stabilised the economy, Mr. Hemachandra said the government was presently focusing on "macroeconomic stability".

On the heels of a grave economic crash and dollar shortage, the country may have to encourage overseas employment "in the short term", he said, insisting this was not the government's long-term strategy. "When the microeconomic condition becomes normal, subject to the macroeconomic condition becoming normal, we believe there would be a change in this trend. People would opt for foreign employment not owing to a crisis, but as a matter of choice," he added, suggesting that the ongoing recovery programme prioritised macroeconomic fundamentals over people's daily hardships.

Rights defenders and labour activists also point to the apparent contradiction in the government continuing to send workers to Israel while pledging support for the Palestinian cause. Some 30,000 Sri Lankan workers are in Israel, employed in construction, as caregivers, and in agriculture.

Queried about the government's position, Mr. Hemachandra said Sri Lanka has historically stood for the Palestinian cause.

"Our party [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna – JVP or People's Liberation Front] has also always been in solidarity with Palestine," he said.

### 'No contradiction'

Pointing to Sri Lanka's past diplomatic relations with Israel and the opportunities for workers, where the "pay is high and working conditions are good", he said: "This government at no point thought of stopping those things... because already many people were on the waiting list and hoping to go. After we came to power, we addressed concerns of irregularities and fraudulent practices and streamlined the process. On the other hand, we separated our Free Palestine stand and our diplomatic relationship with Israel as two different things. I think any country should have that choice. And when take the opportunity to send workers to Israel, that does not change our stand on Palestine," he said, adding: "There is no contradiction in that."

Meanwhile, authorities are also exploring "non-Middle Eastern" markets such as Romania and South Korea and focusing on skilled migration. "When we develop more skilled migration programmes, I am sure that people who go for those jobs will get back in a very reasonable period. Then they could contribute to the Sri Lankan economy directly while being in the country," he said.

# Iran says U.S. must accept peace plan or face 'failure'

**Agence France-Presse**
TEHRAN

**Resolute stance:** A billboard reading 'The Strait of Hormuz remains closed' at the Revolution Square in Tehran. AFP

Iran's chief negotiator said on Tuesday that Washington must accept Tehran's latest peace plan or face failure, after U.S. President Donald Trump warned the truce in the West Asia war was on the brink of collapse.

The war, which erupted more than two months ago with U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran, has spread throughout the West Asia and roiled the global economy despite the ceasefire, impacting hundreds of millions worldwide.

Both sides have refused to make concessions and repeatedly threatened to resume fighting, but neither appears willing to return to all-out war.

"There is no alternative but to accept the rights of the Iranian people as laid out in the 14-point proposal. Any other approach will be completely inconclusive; nothing but one failure after another," Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said in a post on X. "The longer they drag their feet, the more American taxpayers will pay for it."

## Iran warns of enriching uranium to 90% purity

**Reuters**
DUBAI

Iranian parliamentary spokesperson Ebrahim Rezaei said on Tuesday that the country could enrich uranium up to 90% purity, a level considered weapons-grade, if Iran is attacked again.

"One of Iran's options in the event of another attack could be 90% enrichment. We will review it in the Parliament," Mr. Rezaei posted on X.

The fate of around 400kg of uranium enriched to 60%, a short technical step from roughly 90% weapons-grade material, remains unclear.

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**NOTIFICATION INVITING TENDER (NIT)** (Through KPP portal)

No: BESCOM/CGM(Proj)/DGM-1/AGM-1/BC-14/26-27/CYS-51 BESCOM Invites a tender for the work of "Replacement of existing HT/LT OH line into covered conductor/AB Cable in Bevoor, Channapatna Urban & Channapatna Rural sub-divisions in Ramanagara Division, Ramanagara Circle, BESCOM" on Total Turnkey basis under Percentage Quoting basis.

**Tender Enquiry No: BESCOM/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT1100** (1)Availability of Bid documents: **18-05-2026** onwards. (2) Last date for submission of bid Queries: **30-05-2026** before **17:00** Hrs. (3) Pre-Bid meeting: **01-06-2026 @ 11:00** Hrs. **Venue of Pre-Bid meeting :** O/o Chief General Manager (Ele), 4th Floor, Project Section, B Block, Corporate office, BESCOM, K. R Circle, Bangalore- 560 001. (4) Last date for bid submission: **18-06-2026 @ 15:00** Hrs. (5)Opening of Technical Bids: **19-06-2026 @ 15:30** Hrs.

The bid documents can be downloaded and necessary assistance can be obtained through the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) from the website. **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

KPP Portal Help Desk: Phone No: **+91-8046010000 +91-8068948777** E-mail: **support@eprochelpdesk.com**

Aspiring bidders needs to be registered on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP). Bidders can take the assistance from the KPP during office working hours.

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A BG-BGE

CONFIDENCE-BOOSTER

## Management and seniors have been supportive: DC's Madhav

R.V. MOORTHY

This is my second season in the IPL, and I feel that I have become quite used to this environment. The team management and seniors have been super supportive. I can go to them anytime to ask anything. I consider myself a complete all-rounder, so I need to be sharper — Delhi Capitals' Madhav Tiwari.

LAST-MINUTE PLAN

## Decision to bowl full quota with pacers was spontaneous: Bahutule

FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

There was definitely a thought during the timeout, but the ball was seaming. The conditions were suitable for the fast bowlers. The decision to continue with the pacers was spontaneous; we wanted to see how we could get wickets — PBKS spin-bowling coach Sairaj Bahutule on why leggie Yuzvendra Chahal did not bowl against DC.

TEAM SPORT

## Everyone is playing for each other in RCB: bowling coach Salvi

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Bowling coach Omkar Salvi reckoned RCB's tight win over MI in its previous game would be a shot in the arm for the side's confidence. "After such a game, the team's camaraderie is definitely reflected. Everyone is playing for each other. There is trust that one of them will win the match for the side. It is a great thing for RCB," Salvi said.

GAME-CHANGER

## 'Allen is realising his dream with a significant impact on our batting'

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Finn Allen's challenge is balancing his extraordinary ball striking against top bowlers in varied conditions while building consistency. Batters must stay free but calculated. I've loved working with him previously and now in the IPL, where he is realising his dream with a significant impact on our batting — KKR's Shane Watson.

# Rabada and Holder rip through SRH as GT goes top

The pacers take three wickets each to help the home team defend 168 in style, bowling out the visitor for 86 in 14.5 overs; Sai Sudharsan and Washington's gutsy half-centuries prove invaluable

IPL-19

**Pranay Rajiv**
AHMEDABAD

Gujarat Titans' irrepressible new-ball attack outclassed Sunrisers Hyderabad's marauding top-order in a much-anticipated IPL 2026 clash as the home team stormed to a convincing 82-run win at the Narendra Modi Stadium here on Tuesday.

Titans pacers Kagiso Rabada (three for 28) and Mohammed Siraj (one for 11) ripped through SRH's batting spine, reducing the away side to 32 for four in the PowerPlay in its ill-fated 169-run chase on a sluggish black-soil surface.

Jason Holder (three for 20) and Prasidh Krishna (two for 23) continued the chokehold into the middle overs to set up Titans' sixth consecutive win against SRH, a result which also lifted the side to the top of the standings.

Playing an equally important role as the home quicks were B. Sai Sudharsan and Washington Sundar, who scored battling half-centuries to construct Titans' winning total.

The southpaws put on 60 runs for the fourth wicket to wrest control of the game after the SRH pacers dominated the PowerPlay, restricting Titans to 34 for two.

Sai Sudharsan had kickstarted things with a polished cover drive against Nitish Kumar in the second over. His first six came only in the 11th over – a full-blooded slash over backward point against Eshan Malinga. The Titans opener soon got to his fifty with a thumping sweep shot against left-arm wrist-spinner Shivang Kumar that rocketed to the square-leg fence.

Meanwhile, Washington had started with clean, textbook shots for boundaries.

But he tweaked his approach in the death overs, bringing out acrobatic scoops and off-balance slog hits to ensure a strong finish. GT pacers outdid their SRH counterparts in extracting the best out of the sticky bounce on offer.

Rabada and Siraj teed things off by suffocating SRH's top-order with a constricting line and a menacing whisper of away movement.

While Siraj had Travis Head caught at deep-third off a leading edge, Rabada cramped Abhishek Sharma into chopping on. Ishan Kishan was the next to depart, fending a Rabada outswinger to the 'keeper.

Holder and Prasidh smothered the rest of SRH's resistance to pull off a massive win and put their side on the brink of playoff qualification.

**Putting on a clinic:** Rabada and Holder finished the job after Washington and Sai Sudharsan's measured innings gave Titans a fighting chance. VIJAY SONEJI

SCOREBOARD

**GUJARAT TITANS**
B. Sai Sudharsan c Praful b Sakib 61 *(44b, 5x4, 2x6)*, Shubman Gill c Klaasen b Praful 5 *(7b, 1x4)*, Jos Buttler c Kishan b Praful 7 *(11b, 1x4)*, Nishant Sindhu c Klaasen b Cummins 22 *(14b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Washington Sundar c Kishan b Sakib 50 *(33b, 7x4, 1x6)*, Jason Holder (not out) 11 *(10b)*, Rahul Tewatia (not out) 4 *(1b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-2, w-6): 8; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 168.

**FALL OF WICKETS**
1-15 (Gill, 2.2 overs), 2-26 (Buttler, 5.1), 3-64 (Sindhu, 9.3), 4-124 (Sai Sudharsan, 16.2), 5-164 (Washington, 19.5).

**SUNRISERS BOWLING**
Cummins 4-0-20-1, Nitish 3-0-27-0, Praful 3-0-17-2, Malinga 4-0-46-0, Sakib 4-0-37-2, Shivang 2-0-19-0.

**SUNRISERS HYDERABAD**
Travis Head **(Impact Player for Sakib)** c Nishant b Siraj 0 *(4b)*, Abhishek Sharma b Rabada 6 *(4b, 1x6)*, Ishan Kishan c Buttler b Rabada 11 *(7b, 1x4, 1x6)*, R. Smaran c Gill b Rabada 9 *(15b, 1x4)*, Heinrich Klaasen c Buttler b Holder 14 *(16b, 2x4)*, Salil Arora c Buttler b Prasidh 16 *(13b, 3x4)*, Nitish Kumar c Washington b Holder 2 *(4b)*, Pat Cummins c Siraj b Prasidh 19 *(9b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Shivang Kumar c Buttler b Holder 4 *(6b)*, Praful Hinge st. Buttler b Rashid 3 *(8b)*, Eshan Malinga (not out) 0 *(3b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-1): 2; Total (in 14.5 overs): 86.

**FALL OF WICKETS**
1-0 (Head, 0.4), 2-6 (Abhishek, 1.4), 3-23 (Kishan, 3.1), 4-32 (Smaran, 5.5), 5-56 (Salil, 9.4), 6-56 (Klaasen, 10.1), 7-60 (Nitish, 10.4), 8-72 (Shivang, 12.2), 9-82 (Cummins, 13.4).

**TITANS BOWLING**
Siraj 3-1-11-1, Rabada 4-0-28-3, Holder 4-0-20-3, Prasidh **(Impact Player for Tewatia)** 3-0-23-2, Rashid 0.5-0-3-1.

**Toss:** Sunrisers Hyderabad.
**Player-of-the-Match:** Rabada.
*Titans won by 82 runs.*

### Next assignment

**GT:** May 16 vs. KKR Kolkata, 7.30 p.m.
**SRH:** May 18 vs. CSK Chennai, 7.30 p.m.

# RCB stands in the way of KKR's fifth straight victory

**Anish Pathiyil**
RAIPUR

Royal Challengers Bengaluru will look to ride the wave of its exhilarating last-ball win in front of its adopted home crowd at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium when it faces Kolkata Knight Riders here on Wednesday.

In a season with fine margins and unpredictable outcomes, the positive result helped RCB get some breathing space in the playoff race.

A victory against the 2024 winner in the following encounter will be crucial before RCB's last two games against teams vying for the top spot (Punjab Kings and Sunrisers Hyderabad).

Despite the mediocre batting effort against Mumbai Indians, there were plenty of positives the defending champion could take home. The significant one being Romario Shepherd's spell (3-0-18-1) through the middle overs. Before the last game, as the team's sixth bowling option, the West Indian had been leaking runs at 12.94 and had managed only five wickets in nine matches.

The Knight Riders have been quietly making up places in the shadow of those in the playoff struggle. After all looked lost following a six-game winless start to the season, the side has conjured up four back-to-back wins to remain in the fight. A main characteristic of these victories has been a concerted bowling effort in comparatively low-scoring games, allowing the batting core to get the job done despite its imperfections. The return to form of mystery spinner Varun Chakaravarthy, who has eight wickets in the last four games at an economy rate of 6.93, has been vital in this run. The side will hope the TN spinner can shake off a leg injury he has been carrying over the last couple of games.

Can RCB inch closer to that coveted playoff spot? Or will KKR further its winning run and stake a claim? Another noisy night in the 65,000-capacity stadium will help us find out.

**Positive takeaway:** RCB will be buoyed by Shepherd coming into bowling form against MI. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Today's match

RCB vs Knight Riders

Raipur, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 35

RCB 15 | KKR 20

MEETINGS IN 2025

Match abandoned
RCB won by seven wickets

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

# We cannot overthink or overanalyse: Bahutule

**S. Shrivathsan**
DHARAMSHALA

In an action-packed tournament like the IPL where matches come thick and fast, teams hardly have time to rest on glory or dwell on defeats.

Hence, it did not come as a surprise when Punjab Kings spin-bowling coach Sairaj Bahutule emphasised that the struggling side should not "brood over" recent losses.

"Obviously, everyone is disappointed, but we cannot overthink and overanalyse. In a couple of days' time, we will be playing Mumbai Indians here (on Thursday). It is important to take the learnings from this game," Bahutule said after Delhi Capitals handed PBKS its fourth defeat on the bounce on Monday.

"We will certainly look into phases of our bowling and the fielding part. We almost had the game [in the bag], but we did not execute the skills in the last five overs. If we had taken the two catches, DC may not have reached the target," he added.

Although nothing seems to be going right for Kings, Bahutule remained positive about Shreyas Iyer and his men turning the corner.

"We are still in the hunt to qualify [for the playoffs]. There are going to be a lot of ups and downs. We have to put these (losses) behind us and move ahead," said Bahutule.

Shreyas' Punjab Kings has lost four games in a row.
R.V. MOORTHY

Among those who rubbed salt into the wound was young Capitals all-rounder Madhav Tiwari. The 22-year-old, making his first appearance of the season, crucially struck twice with the ball before acing the chase with an unbeaten eight-ball 18.

"I just tried to control my nerves and do the basics well (while batting). I was in the zone and wanted to win. We (Ashutosh Sharma and him) had a clear understanding of what was needed. The ball was coming onto the bat nicely, and we felt quite comfortable."

The 211-run pursuit was indeed comfortable in the end.

# In PowerPlay era, the safe score concept is becoming obsolete

**Natalia Hannah Rice**

When Punjab Kings overhauled Delhi Capitals' 264 at the Arun Jaitley stadium last month, completing the highest successful chase in the history of T20s, the margin of surprise was minimal. A target of 265 should have been unconquerable. It proved anything but that.

Prabhsimran Singh's assault at the top and Shreyas Iyer's composed authority in the middle had reduced a landmark total to a footnote.

The chase was completed with seven balls to spare. IPL 2026 had already conditioned its audience to expect the extraordinary. This season has produced a statistical anomaly that would have been unimaginable five years ago. Sunrisers Hyderabad currently leads the way in this list, smashing records in recent seasons with massive totals (287 and 286).

SRH chased down 244 against Mumbai Indians at Wankhede, Rajasthan Royals successfully pursued 223 against PBKS at New Chandigarh, and as recently as Monday, DC hunted down 211 against PBKS at Dharamshala. What was once a match-winning total has now become merely competitive. Several factors have converged to produce this batting revolution.

Points table

| | M | W | L | NR | PTS | NRR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gujarat Titans | 12 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 16 | 0.551 |
| Royal Challengers | 11 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 14 | 1.103 |
| Sunrisers Hyderabad | 12 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 14 | 0.331 |
| Punjab Kings | 11 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 13 | 0.428 |
| Chennai Super Kings | 11 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 12 | 0.185 |
| Rajasthan Royals | 11 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 12 | 0.082 |
| Delhi Capitals | 12 | 5 | 7 | 0 | 10 | -0.993 |
| Kolkata Knight Riders | 10 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 9 | -0.169 |
| Mumbai Indians (E) | 11 | 3 | 8 | 0 | 6 | -0.585 |
| Lucknow Super Giants (E) | 11 | 3 | 8 | 0 | 6 | -0.907 |

E: Eliminated

Priyansh and Prabhsimran... making the first six overs count.

Pitches across many IPL venues are flatter, offering minimal lateral movement and little assistance to seam bowlers.

Smaller boundary dimensions at several grounds have also significantly increased six-hitting rates.

Batting line-ups now extend deep, also aided by the Impact Player rule, reducing the dependence on tailenders. PowerPlay batting, once relatively measured, is now built around relentless aggression. The first six overs have become decisive, and openers are expected to attack from the very first ball, often scoring at rates of 12 or even 13 runs per over.

In successful 200-plus chases this season, the average scoring rate in the first six overs has climbed to 13.81, an increase of nearly 21% from last year.

On average, winning chasing sides complete more than 37% of their target before the PowerPlay ends.

The consequences are profound. Captains winning the toss no longer take comfort in posting 210. In this season of IPL, the very concept of a safe score has ceased to exist.

## INBRIEF

### Rana bowls Bangladesh to a facile victory with a five-for

Seamer Nahid Rana claimed five for 40 on an eventful final day to bowl Bangladesh to a 104-run victory in the opening Test against Pakistan in Mirpur. The hosts, who set a victory target of 268, bundled the visitors out for 163, prising out seven wickets in the final session, to go 1-0 up in the two-Test series on Tuesday.

**The scores:** Bangladesh 413 in 117.1 overs & 240/9 decl. in 70.3 overs (Mominul 56, Shanto 87) bt Pakistan 386 & 163 in 52.5 overs (Fazal 66, Rana 5/40).

### Lakshay punches his way to the 75kg category final

Lakshay Phogat beat South Korea's Seungmin Lee by a unanimous 5-0 decision to book his place in the 75kg category final at the Asian under-17 boxing championships in Tashkent on Tuesday. Four other Indians secured bronze medals after losing in the semifinals.

**The results (semifinals): 46kg:** Abdulloh Nuraliev (Uzb) bt Narendra Nella 5-0; **50kg:** Suld Usukhbaatar (Mgl) bt Yash Yadav 4-1; **54kg:** Abdulbosit Yursunboev (Uzb) bt Nivesh Pal 5-0; **70kg:** Abduvohid Abdumajidov (Uzb) bt Naman 3-2; **75kg:** Lakshay Phogat bt Seungmin Lee (Kor) 5-0.

### Dembele voted Ligue 1's Player of the Year again

Paris Saint-Germain forward Ousmane Dembele was on Monday named the Ligue 1 Player of the Year for the second year running, after leading the club to the brink of a 14th French title and the Champions League final. The 28-year-old becomes just the fifth player to win back-to-back awards, the last being Zlatan Ibrahimovic in 2014.

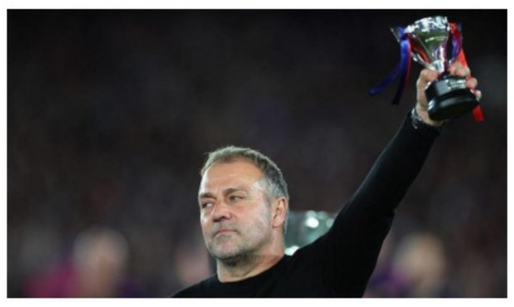
### National doubles squash from May 13 to 16 in Chennai

The HCL National doubles squash championship 2026, organised by Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI) in association with HCL Technologies, will be held from May 13 to 16 at the Indian Squash Academy (ISA) in Chennai. The tournament will serve as the National selection event for the second Asian doubles championships, scheduled in Malaysia from June 18 to 21. The championship, now in its third edition, will offer a total prize purse of ₹3.3 lakh across categories and is expected to feature many of the country's top doubles squash talents.

### South Africa names squad for ICC Women's T20 WC

Cricket South Africa announced a 15-member squad for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026, set to take place in England and Wales from June 12. Laura Wolvaardt will lead the side.

**The squad:** Laura Wolvaardt (Capt.), Tazmin Brits, Nadine de Klerk, Annerie Dercksen, Shabnim Ismail, Sinalo Jafta, Marizanne Kapp, Ayabonga Khaka, Sune Luus, Karabo Meso, Nonkululeko Mlaba, Kayla Reyneke, Tumi Sekhukhune, Chloe Tryon, and Dane van Niekerk. **South Africa's fixtures: June 13:** Vs. Australia (Old Trafford); **June 17:** Vs. Pakistan (Edgbaston); **June 21: Vs. India (Old Trafford);** June 25: Vs. Netherlands (Bristol); June 28: Vs. Bangladesh (Lord's).



### Triumphant coach Flick extends contract with Barca

Barcelona coach Hansi Flick confirmed on Tuesday that he has signed a new two-year contract with the club, with an option for a third season. The 61-year-old secured a second-consecutive La Liga title with the club on Sunday.

# Sandeep back with a bang, wins Greco Roman 60kg title

The Haryana grappler edges past Delhi's Harsh in a keenly fought final; Manjeet downs Umesh for the 82kg crown; Ankita stuns Olympian Sonam; Asian bronze medallist Hansika withdraws

WRESTLING

**Y.B. Sarangi**
NANDINI NAGAR (U.P.)

Sandeep of Rohtak (Haryana) returned from a three-year hiatus to make his mark by winning the Greco Roman 60kg title at the Senior Open Ranking wrestling tournament on the Nandini Nagar Mahavidyalaya campus, here on Tuesday.

An Armyman who was injured and resumed training in November 2025, Sandeep fought six bouts over two days because of the delayed action but carried out his plans well to emerge the champion. In a keenly-fought final, he edged past Delhi's Harsh 3-1. Sandeep gained a 3-0 lead in the first period by scoring because of his opponent's passivity and then effected a takedown. He gave away one point in the second period due to his own passivity but relied on strong defence to stay ahead till the end.

"Yesterday, I fought two bouts and today four. It's difficult to manage without food. My endurance helped," said the former National champion Sandeep, reflecting the difficulty the wrestlers face due to erratic schedule in hot and humid conditions.

Manjeet secured a hard-fought 4-2 win over Umesh for the 82kg crown.

In the women's section, Olympian Sonam Malik (65kg), who underwent a left knee surgery and made a comeback after four years, was stunned 3-2 by Ankita in the first round.

Asian bronze medallist Hansika Lamba withdrew after injuring herself during a 57kg bout.

**The results (finals): Men: Greco Roman: 55kg:** Sanjeev (Har) bt Sushil Kumar (Har) 9-0; **60kg:** Sandeep (Har) bt Harsh (Del) 3-1; **63kg:** Vijay (Har) bt Vinay (Mah) 9-0; **67kg:** Nishant (Har) bt Vikas (Chd) 7-2; **72kg:** Suraj (SSCB) bt Gaurav Duhoon (UP) by injury; **77kg:** Vikas (Har) bt Sunny Baisla (UP) 8-0,

**82kg:** Manjeet (Har) bt Umesh (Har) 4-1; **87kg:** Tejpal (Mah) bt Sagar (Har) by injury; **97kg:** Ashish (Har) bt Abhimanu (Pun) by injury; **130kg:** Mehar Singh (Har) bt Vipin (Har) by injury.

**Holding on:** Sandeep, foreground, had the final say against Harsh. SANDEEP SAXENA

# Not the end of the road for Vinesh: WFI

**Y.B. Sarangi**
NANDINI NAGAR (U.P.)

Even after rendering Vinesh Phogat ineligible to compete and serving her a show-cause notice, the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) said that this is not the end of the road for the two-time World Championships medallist.

WFI president Sanjay Singh said Vinesh needed to go through the procedure.

"This is not the end (of the road for her). Let her reply. A WFI committee will be formed. Whatever the committee decides, it will be informed to her," Sanjay told *The Hindu* on Tuesday.

Sanjay added Vinesh, who was found ineligible to make a comeback at the Open Ranking event here on Tuesday, would not be eligible for the Asian Games trials in New Delhi on May 30 as well.

"In no way she can participate in the Asian Games trials. She is not eligible to compete in any WFI event. Later, if she is eligible as per the criteria, then she can compete in the trials for the Worlds."

About the timing of her ineligibility and show-cause, the WFI chief said: "Whenever an athlete approaches the federation to take part in a competition, the federation checks her eligibility only then.

As for the show-cause, she took retirement immediately after (getting disqualified from) the Paris Olympics (for jumping the weight limit of 50kg).

"How can I serve a notice to someone who has retired? What about fighting in two weights (at the trials)? Now she is putting the responsibility on the ad-hoc committee (which conducted the trials). When I asked her about this, she grimaced.

"She is a senior athlete, she should know the rules."

Vinesh. SANDEEP SAXENA

Sanjay said Vinesh would not be eligible for the Asian Games trials in New Delhi on May 30

# Satwik-Chirag pair advances

BADMINTON

**Press Trust of India**
BANGKOK

Top seeds Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty survived a stiff challenge before defeating Indonesia's Muh Putra Erwiansyah and Bagas Maulana in a thrilling three-game opener of the men's doubles competition at the Thailand Open Super 500 tournament here on Tuesday.

The world No. 4 Indian pair registered a 19-21, 23-21, 21-10 win over Muh and Bagas in 64 minutes. The Indians will face Malaysia's Bryan Jeremy Goonting and Muhammad Haikal next.

However, A. Hariharan and M.R. Arjun went down 18-21, 20-22 against Taiwan's Chen Zhi Ray and Lin Yu Chieh in 35 minutes.

In women's doubles, the Panda siblings Swetaparna and Rutaparna lost to Taiwan's Chu Yun Yang and Chih-Chun Lin 21-9, 21-11.

Earlier, Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia, who returned after recovering from an injury, defeated Manav Choudhary 21-19, 21-18 in a men's qualifying match. In mixed doubles qualification, M. Jaglan and L. Jaglan lost 11-21, 18-21 to Chinese Taipei's Tsai Fu Cheng and Sung Yu Hsuan, while in women's qualification, Thailand's Y. Ketklieng beat India's A. Shahapurkar 21-5, 21-7.

**The results (main draw): Men's doubles:** Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty bt Muh Putra Erwiansyah & Bagas Maula (Ina) 19-21, 23-21, 21-10; Chen Zhi Ray & Lin Yu Chieh (Tpe) bt A. Hariharan & M.R. Arjun 21-18, 22-20.

**Women's doubles:** Chu Yun Yang & Chih-Chun Lin (Tpe) bt Swetaparna & Rutaparna Panda 21-9, 21-11.

# Manish ends a long win drought, enters the pre-quarterfinals

TENNIS

**Ashwin Achal**
BENGALURU

Manish Sureshkumar's last win in an ATP Challenger tournament match came in November 2019. A relieved Manish managed to break the long drought in the first round of the Karnataka Open ATP Challenger here on Tuesday with a 6-4, 7-6 (7) win over American qualifier Ronit Karki.

Manish (World No. 829) stayed consistent with his groundstrokes to outclass Karki, the 2025 Wimbledon junior finalist.

"Normally I like to play long rallies, but here that it not possible because the ball travels faster and longer. Having good ball control really helps in these conditions," the 26-year-old Manish said.

**No sweat:** Manish took out American qualifier Karki in straight sets. K. MURALI KUMAR

In another round-of-32 clash, Japan's Kokoro Isomura defeated an inconsistent Karan Singh 7-6(6), 6-3.

Karan made far too away unforced errors, and was tentative with his volleys.

Playing in the familiar setting of his home stadium, 19-year-old Kriish Tyagi took out Japanese qualifier Taiyo Yamanaka 6-2, 7-5.

**The results (round-of-32):**
Philip Sekulic (Aus) bt Digvijaypratap Singh 7-6(5), 7-6(5); Mukund Sasikumar bt Mitsuki Wei (Mas) 6-3, 7-6(1).
Kokoro Isomura (Jpn) bt Karan Singh 7-6(6), 6-3.
Manish Sureshkumar bt Ronit Karki (USA) 6-4, 7-6(7); Alastair Gray (GBr) bt Petr Bar Biryukov 6-7(5), 6-4, 7-6(3).
Joshua Charlton (Aus) bt Prajwal Dev 6-1, 6-4; Kriish Tyagi bt Taiyo Yamanaka (Jpn) 6-2, 7-5.
Ilya Ivashka bt Kuan-Yi Lee (Tpe) 6-2, 6-0; Keegan Smith (USA) bt Ryotaro Taguchi (Jpn) 6-1, 6-4.
Amit Vales (Isr) bt Aditya Vishal Balsekar 6-2, 6-2.

## BENGALURU ROUND-UP

### Tanishi swims to two new marks

Tanishi Gupta of Basavanagudi Aquatic Centre created new meet records in 100m butterfly and 100m backstroke at the NRJ State senior swimming championship on Tuesday.

**Select results (winners only):**
**Men: 200m freestyle:** Aneesh S. Gowda (BAC) 1:51.87s (NMR; OR: Aneesh, 1:52.41, 2025).
**400m IM:** Shoan Ganguly (BAC) 4:31.99 (NMR; OR: S. Shiva, 4:33.77, 2022).
**Women: 100m butterfly:** Tanishi Gupta (Dolphin) 1:00.49 (NMR; OR: Nina Venkatesh, 1:03.45, 2023).
**100m breaststroke:** S. Lakshya (BAC) 1:13.67 (NMR: OR: Manavi Varma, 1:14.92, 2023).
**100m backstroke:** Tanishi 1:05.16 (NMR; OR: Ridhima Veerendrakumar, 1:05.81, 2022);
**200m backstroke:** Naisha (BAC) 2:23.92s (NMR; OR: Ridhima, 2:24.54, 2022).
**400m IM:** S. Thanya (Jirs) 5:08.65 (NMR; OR: 5:11.17, Thanya, 2024).

### Former State hoopster Derick Browne passes away

Former Karnataka basketball player Derick Browne passed away recently here. He was 85. Browne represented Karnataka and Services teams in the National championships, and also played for Devanga Union & MEG in the 1960s and 70s.
Post retirement, he worked at Bishop Cottons Boys School and Cathedral School as sports director, and also coached the State women's team. The Karnataka State Basketball Association condoled his death.

### Ujwal shines in RVCE Gymkhana's romp

B. Ujwal Krishna's four-wicket haul (4/11) was instrumental in RVCE Gymkhana's nine-wicket win over Jawahar SC (2) in the KSCA (U-16) inter-club tournament.

**The scores:** Jawahar SC (2) 38 in 26.5 overs (B. Ujwal Krishna 4/11) lost to RVCE Gymkhana 39/1 in 2.5 overs.

Modern 205 in 41.2 overs (Nethieek V. Dave 41, Dhyey Gaurangkumar Shastri 58) lost to Johnson 208/9 in 41.3 overs (Divyam Kumawat 48).

Vivekanagar Cricketers 278/3 in 42 overs (A.C. Bhavith Reddy 51, Akarsh M. Appinakatte 111) bt Merchants (1) 64 in 29.1 overs.

Bangalore Star CA 224 in 47.2 overs (M. Suhas 41) lost to Bharath 227/8 in 45.2 overs (Gaurav Jeevan 85 n.o.).

South End SC 85 in 27.1 overs lost to Vultures 89 for no loss in 14.1 overs (Anirudh M. Bangera 52 n.o.).

Minerva 187 in 39 overs (Tanish Bennuri 4/28) lost to Spartons SC 188/2 in 31.1 overs (Vastvik Sharma 80 n.o., K. Hrithik Polin 55).

### Play 365 routs Yelahanka FC

Play 365 thrashed Yelahanka FC 6-0 in a Group-C match of the KSFA C-division league football championship here on Tuesday.

**Other results:**
**Group-C:** Ronaldo FC Bangalore bt Blue Moon FC 1-0; Ansh Sports Club bt Victoria FC Bangalore 4-2.
**Group-D:** D.B. United drew with RVFC 0-0; Blue Diamond FC bt Pioneer FC Bangalore 8-0; Agniputhra FA bt Mahesh Raj United FC 2-1.

LIVE TELECAST

**IPL**: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
**LaLiga:** FanCode, 10.30 p.m. & 1 a.m. (Thursday)

# Tottenham's relegation fears remain

EURO LEAGUES

**Agencies**
LONDON

Mathys Tel was the hero and villain as Tottenham drew 1-1 at home against Leeds on Monday – a result that leaves its Premier League future hanging in the balance.

The Frenchman broke the deadlock early in the second half but then gave away a penalty with a wild attempted clearance.

Spurs are two points clear of West Ham, which was denied a stoppage-time equaliser by VAR on Sunday in a 1-0 defeat by Arsenal – a potentially season-defining decision at both ends of the table.

**The results: Premier League:** Tottenham 1 (Tel 50) drew with Leeds 1 (Calvert-Lewin 74-pen).
**Serie A:** Napoli 2 (Di Lorenzo 45+1, Santos 48) lost to Bologna 3 (Bernardeschi 9, Orsolini 34-pen, Rowe 90+1)
**LaLiga:** Rayo Vallecano 1 (Alemao 86) drew with Girona 1 (Stuani 90).

# Barren draw denies Mohun Bagan the chance to top table

ISL

**Amitabha Das Sharma**
KOLKATA

Mohun Bagan Super Giant missed the chance to move clear at the top of the table when it was held to a frustrating 0-0 draw by Inter Kashi FC at the Salt Lake Stadium on Tuesday.

The result left Bagan level on 22 points with East Bengal FC after 11 matches but the latter stays ahead on goal difference.

The two are now set for a virtual title decider in the 'Kolkata derby' on May 17.

Bagan, which dominated possession for most of the match, struggled to break down a compact and disciplined Inter Kashi defence.

The visitors, which saw their head coach Antonio Habas severing ties with a side just a day ago, did well in creating a wall in their penalty area that the host was unable to break.

Despite being under pressure for long periods, Inter Kashi created the best opportunity of the game in the ninth minute when Mohammad Asif missed an open goal from close range.

In the second half, Bagan head coach Sergio Lobera introduced Jamie Maclaren and Subhasish Bose to add more sharpness to the attack, but Inter Kashi's organised defending continued to frustrate the host. Bagan came close on several occasions after the interval but their efforts went in vain as the forwards lacked the finishing touch needed to find a breakthrough.

The result left Bagan level on 22 points with East Bengal FC after 11 matches but the latter stays ahead on goal difference

The two are now set for a virtual title decider in the 'Kolkata derby' on May 17

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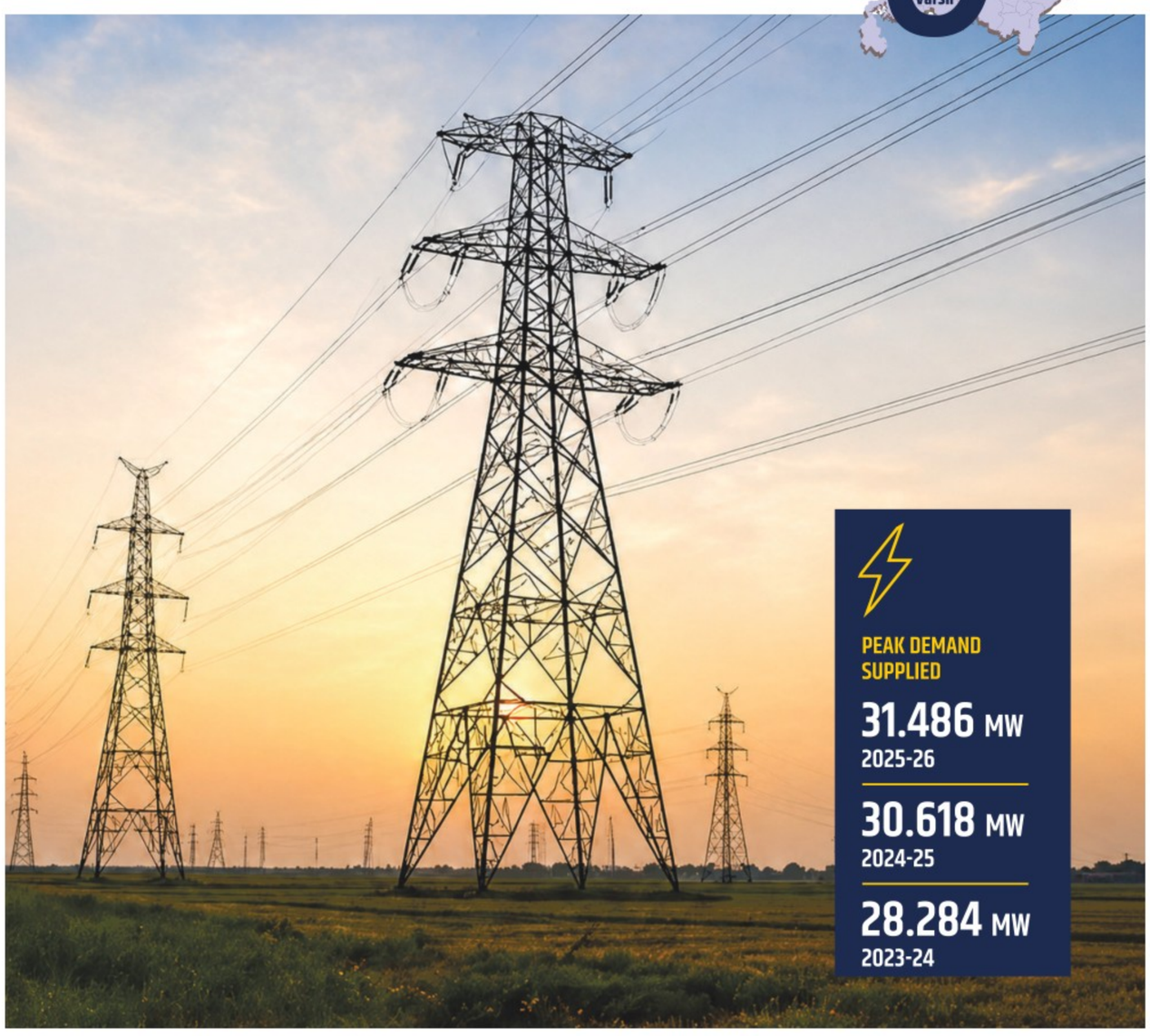


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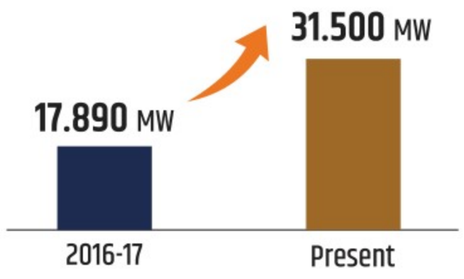


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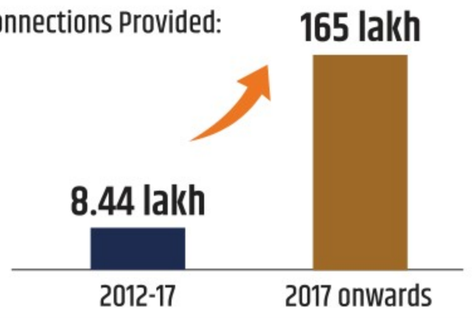


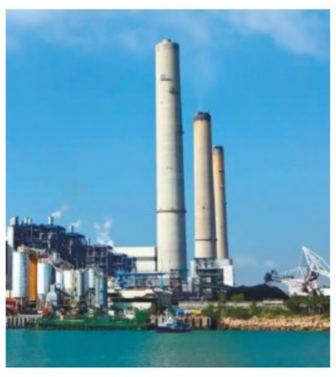

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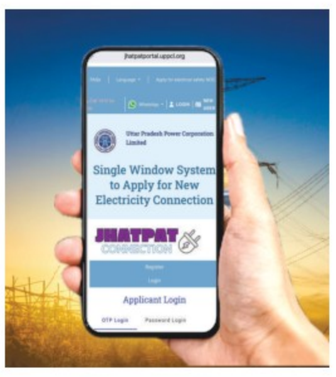


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# Fitzpatrick brothers set sights on PGA championship crown

The in-form Matt and Alex, siblings from Sheffield, will bring their contrasting styles to Aronimink in pursuit of glory; they will not only be battling a challenging course and an elite field, but also the challenges of living together

**Major attention:** Matt and Alex will look to cause a flutter when they tee off at the PGA event. GETTY IMAGES

GOLF

**Agence France-Presse**
PHILADELPHIA

Matt and Alex Fitzpatrick, English brothers and two of the world's leading golfers, will share a house this week as they chase glory at the 108th PGA Championship at Aronimink near Philadelphia.

In the City of Brotherly Love, the siblings from Sheffield will battle not only a demanding course and elite competition, but also the challenges of living together.

"We are different," elder brother Matt said on Monday. "He's messy, I would say. We shared a rest room last week... and it was a little bit messier than my side of the rest room.

> It's the same as ever. He'll ask me when I'm playing and he'll either join me or he'll kind of fit in elsewhere
> **MATT FITZPATRICK**

"I'm very strict with my routine. I want to do this and I need to see whoever at this time. If he wants to fit that in, that's great."

World No. 4 Matt Fitzpatrick, the 2022 U.S. Open champion, has enjoyed a strong run of form this season.

> Impressed more than anything. Super proud of him for how he has been playing. I'm probably known as Alex's brother now

He finished runner-up at The Players Championship in March before winning the Valspar Championship and the Heritage title.

He also teamed up with 27-year-old Alex to win the PGA Tour pairs event in New Orleans.

Alex Fitzpatrick has also impressed this year. After securing his maiden DP World Tour title at the Indian Open in March, he accepted a PGA Tour berth and followed it with a tied-ninth finish at Doral and fourth place at Quail Hollow last week.

**Climbing up**

Those performances earned Alex $2.8 million in prize money over the past three weeks and lifted him to 83rd in the world rankings after beginning the year at 203.

This week will mark only Alex's second Major appearance after finishing tied-17th at the 2023 British Open, when the brothers also shared accommodation.

Matt has enjoyed seeing his brother's success."Impressed more than anything. Super proud of him for how he has been playing," Matt said.

**Weird feeling**

"I'm probably known as Alex's brother now." Matt said battling his brother for a Major title would be "a weird feeling" when the moment comes.

Reflecting on his own form, Matt said his current streak had "eclipsed" the "golden period" that brought him the 2022 U.S. Open title.

"Cashed that all in," he said.

"I'm trying to cherish it as much as possible. It's all happening very quickly. Given the three wins I've had, that has obviously been fantastic".

# *IPL reminds us beauty is only one mode of the aesthetic experience*

**BETWEEN WICKETS**
**Suresh Menon**

Mike Brearley once told me about his father who had played first class cricket for both Yorkshire and Middlesex. Late in life, damaged by Alzheimer's, he had no understanding of the state of the game or the players he watched on television. "But," said Brearley, "he could still be moved by a well-played stroke." I often think of this.

To be moved by a well-played stroke is a blessing, even when it may be among the last life has to offer. In the shorter formats, where the focus is on a kind of frantic, reckless batsmanship, there is still room for the elegant cover drive or the gentle leg glance.

A shot into the stands in the IPL might provoke a collective scream, but there is too the gasp, the intake of breath that greets the exquisite cover drive. For a fraction of a second, the crowd doesn't react because beauty requires recognition before appreciation.

**Beauty of a cover drive**

The cover drive off a fast bowler is particularly special because it is about timing, balance, and the joy of using the bowler's weapon, pace, against him. It is a civilised response to aggression. Sachin Tendulkar said, "When you middle the cover drive, you don't feel the ball hit the bat." The sound of a cover drive is gentle, and comes from somewhere deep. The stroke contains cricket's essential contradiction: violence disguised as grace.

The great English all rounder Wilfred Rhodes continued to attend matches after he had lost his sight in both eyes. He could recognise a beautifully played cover drive purely from the sound of the bat caressing the ball.

We often make the mistake of assuming that aesthetics is about beauty alone.

The IPL reminds us that beauty is only one mode of the aesthetic experience. The sublime, the grotesque, the melancholic, the chaotic, and the uncanny all belong to the aesthetic realm.

There is beauty in a cover drive that is matched by few events on a cricket field. But Urvil Patel in his record-equalling 50 off 13 balls brought to the viewer something chaotic, something desperate as he tried to hit that six or that boundary; perhaps he sacrificed beauty for effectiveness, something his team will be grateful for. Beauty is not something that grows out of cricket; it is in a player's DNA. It is not about the sport, but about the individual.

It was said of Ranji that he was incapable of an ugly stroke. This has been said of later batters as well.

Every generation has its anointed player of grace. When I was younger, it was Gundappa Viswanath who drove past cover or cut square with elegance and control.

He owned the area from extra cover to third man on the off side, often playing late enough to embarrass geometry.

He played the back cut too, a shot that had gone out of cricket. Till now, that is, when batters in the IPL seem to have revived it, admittedly less elegantly and with greater frenzy. Sometimes the ordinary can be made to look extraordinary through sheer will.

Scorecards are indifferent to aesthetics. Cardus wrote that the scoreboard is an ass. The essential difference between red-ball cricket and the formats played in white is in the attitude to the scoreboard. In the former, it is an ass; in the latter, it is everything. A boundary struck with the elegance of a V.V.S. Laxman or a Rohit Sharma fetches the same return as one that takes the edge and trickles past third man.

Long after six-hitting contests blur into one another, the perfect cover drive endures. A bent knee. A high elbow. The whisper of leather meeting willow. The ball threading the outfield while fielders are reduced to statues. We glimpse the very soul of cricket.

It is possible that, as one writer has suggested, today's batter gets more value for the same effort (in terms of runs) than those from the past, but the spectator gets less value (in terms of beauty). In other words, tell me who your favourite batter is, and I will tell you your age!

Even the journeyman can briefly attain greatness in one stroke before slipping back into ordinariness. The well-played stroke is both possibility and fulfilment.




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